

FOR MARCH, 1798.

† A large bat of S. America.

terests of letters, or for the more general ones of man. In which of the works of this redoubted controversialist can we look, without certain disappointment, for the discovery, the illustration, the enforcement of any great literary, political, moral, or religious truth? In his "Divine Legation," his "Alliance between Church and State," his various commentaries and treatises, we are only mortified with the spectacle of a strong and rich mind lavishing it's force and it's stores in the exhibition and support of paradoxes, which confound and tease; or of bad passions, which irritate and disgust. From the perusal of his prime labour, the "Divine Legation," whoever rose with a more confirmed faith in revelation? or, who rather was not impressed with the conviction, that the author himself rejected what he affected to inculcate; that he was one of those chosen spirits, the *sublimes animæ*, who, admitted behind the scenes, could observe the management of the wires, which regulated the movements of the puppets; that, for the double object of truth and convenience, he reserved an *esoteric* doctrine for the initiated few, while he divulged an *exoteric* for the excluded multitude? Of Warburton, in short, we can think only as of a man, who, endowed by nature to be permanently great, was contented to be transiently powerful; and who, with the means of becoming the benefactor of many generations, chose rather to be the gaze and terrour of one.

Our opinion of Dr. W. is of a more favourable complexion, and not *sicklied o'er with the same pale cast*. We esteem him for the uniform appropriation of his talents and learning to utility; and we respect him for the resolution, with which he has compelled the languor of declining life to submit to his zeal for the literature of his country. Though produced at that period of existence, when the cold blood about the heart* usually damps the ardour of exertion, and sinks the mind into a listless love of repose, the work before us betrays little diminution of it's author's force; and discovers scarcely any traces of his old age on it's leaves. It involves, indeed, some of the labours of his earlier days; and presents us with a large portion of his "Essay," blended with the notes, and only occasionally adapted to meet his maturer judgment, or admit his extended information. The conduct of Dr. W., in thus availing himself of his former composition, seems in no degree reprehensible; and we are better pleased, as we turn over the pages of Pope, to find the requisite illustration immediately at our hand, than to be sent for it to a book, which may not be on our table, or possibly on our shelves. Was it, indeed, to be expected, that a subject, which our editor had already so thoroughly ransacked, could supply him with a sufficiency of new matter for his present demand? or if it could, was he to throw away such of the old materials, as he might deem to be necessary for the completion of his design? or was he to incur the trouble of new casting and modelling them, for the sole purpose of giving them an imposing semblance of novelty? We think, that Dr. W. has acted rightly by effecting, in the mode that he has adopted, the incorporation in question; and we are thankful to him for that aggregate of information and entertainment, which he has thus been

* *Frigidus circum præcordia sanguis.*—Virg.

enabled to include in the present publication. By this general approbation, however, of his performance, it is not our intention to pronounce it faultless; or to preclude ourselves from the exercise of occasional dissent on some inferior points of critical opinion.

As our readers may wish to receive from the editor himself an explanation of his motives for this undertaking, and of his principles in the conduct of it, we shall extract, for their satisfaction, his

Advertisement.—‘The public is here presented with a complete edition of the works of Pope, both in verse and prose, accompanied with various notes and illustrations. The reason for undertaking it, was the universal complaint, that Dr. Warburton had disfigured and disgraced his edition, with many forced and far-sought interpretations, totally unsupported by the passages which they were brought to elucidate. If this was only my single opinion, nothing could have induced me to have delivered it with so much freedom; nor to have undertaken this work after it had passed through the hands of Dr. Warburton. Many, however, of his notes, that do not fall under this description, are here adopted. To this edition are now added, several poems undoubtedly of our author’s hand; and in prose, many letters to different correspondents, which, from the circumstances of literary history which they contain, it was thought might be entertaining; together with his *Thoughts on various Subjects*; his account of the madness of Dennis; the poisoning of Edmund Curll; the *Essay on the origin of sciences*; the key to the *Rape of the Lock*; and that piece of inimitable humour, the fourteenth chapter of *Scriblerus*, on the *Double Mistress*; all of which were inserted in his own edition in quarto, 1741. And to these is added, also, one of the best of his critical compositions, his *Postscript to the Odyssey*.

‘If I have sometimes ventured, in the following remarks, to point out any seeming blemishes and imperfections in the works of this excellent Poet, I beg it may be imputed, not to the “dull, malignant delight,” of seeking to find out trivial faults, but merely to guard the reader from being misled, by the example of a writer, in general, so uniformly elegant and correct.

‘The notes to which the letter P. is subjoined, are by Mr. Pope himself; all which are carefully retained. Those marked W. are by Dr. Warburton. For the rest, I am answerable.’

The life of Pope has engaged so much attention, that the subject may be deemed exhausted. Whatever could be collected on it, is here presented to us by the editor, in a style, which affects not to rise above that of easy narration, and which, if it cannot impress us with it’s force, will not offend us with it’s harshness or obscurity. To enable our readers to judge of this part of the work, we will lay before them two passages from it, one respecting a scholar of some eminence, who is not, we believe, generally known otherwise than by name; and the other containing the editor’s latest, and most matured sentiments on the poetic character of Pope.

P. xxxv. — ‘In 1726, Mr. Joseph Spence, fellow of New College in Oxford, but not yet professor of poetry, as Dr. Johnson imagined him to be, (my father holding that office at the time,) published an

Essay on the Odyssey, in a dialogue betwixt *Philypsus* and *Antiphaus*, after the manner of Bouhours and Dryden on the Drama, in which its beauties and blemishes were minutely considered. The candour, the politeness, the true taste, and judgment, with which this criticism was conducted, were so very acceptable and pleasing to Pope, that he immediately courted the acquaintance of the ingenious author, who, notwithstanding Dr. Johnson's *invidious assertion*, was an excellent scholar, and earnestly invited him to spend some time with him at Twickenham; and I have now before me a letter which Spence wrote from thence, to his intimate friend Mr. Pitt, the translator of *Vida* and *Virgil*, describing to him the uncommonly kind and friendly manner in which he was received and treated. By the favour of Dr. Lowth, the late excellent bishop of London, I have seen a copy of this *Essay on the Odyssey*, with marginal observations written in Pope's own hand, and generally acknowledging the justness of Spence's observations; and in a few instances pleading, humorously enough, that some favourite lines might be spared. I speak from experience, when I say, that I know no critical treatise better calculated to form the taste of young men of genius, than this *Essay on the Odyssey*. And lest it should be thought that this opinion arises from my partiality to a friend with whom I lived so many years in the happiest intimacy; I will add, that this also was the opinion of three persons, from whose judgment there can be no appeal, Dr. Akenfield, bishop Lowth, and Mr. James Harris. The two valuable preferments which Spence obtained, the prebend of Durham, and the professorship of modern history in Oxford, were owing to the interest which Pope, among some of his powerful friends, exerted in his favour. And it was upon Pope's recommendation that he travelled with lord Middlesex, which was the foundation of his future good fortune.

‘To this learned and amiable man, on whose friendship I set the greatest value, am I indebted for most of the anecdotes relating to Pope mentioned in this edition, which he communicated to me when I was making him a visit, 1754, at Byfleet in Surry; a pleasant villa which had been presented to him by lord Lincoln.’

In this passage we were rather concerned to find the expression, which we have printed in italics. Of the many human passions and frailties, to which we know that the author of the *Rambler* was subject, we do not believe that envy was one; and in the instance before us there certainly was nothing to awake it, even if it had been slumbering in his bosom. The prejudices which oppressed the mind of this great man, and sometimes threw a veil over it's vision, were indeed numerous and deplorable: and their effect often provokes in us a mingled sensation of pity and resentment. But far from being disposed to exaggerate, we are not solicitous even to explore the blemishes of a character of so much predominating excellence. If we be disgusted with his life of Milton, we immediately re-inflate him in our esteem by recurring to his *Rambler*; and we keep from our view, as much as possible, his delinquency as a politician, while we respect him as a critic, and venerate him as a moralist. The propriety, it is true, of many of his decisions from the chair of Aristotle has been the subject of question; but while some of these must
be

be admitted to be erroneous, none of them, we think, can be justly branded as malicious and corrupt. Rancorous as were his prejudices against the author of 'Paradise Lost,' his critique on the poem is certainly as candid as it is able: and when it degrades the sixth book from the first place in that divine work, we conceive it's act to be right, and give it our approbation. But dissenting in this, and in some other instances, from the judgment of Dr. W., we concur with it in the reprobation of more than one of those sentences, which Johnson has pronounced, either rashly, and from too much confidence in his own powers, or unfeelingly, and from a deficiency of that exquisite sensibility of mind, which is required for the full perception of poetic beauty. Of his failure as a critic, his censures of Lycidas, and, still more, of the Odes of Gray, form unquestionably the most memorable examples; and these can be classed only with those anomalies of judgment, into which the strongest and best constituted intellect will accidentally wander. Acknowledging, however, the critical fallibility of Johnson, we do not conceive it to have been in the degree suggested by our editor; and we cannot discover it in some of the instances, which he has pointed out, and against which he has entered his protest. For 'that unfriendly and uncandid life,' as it is called, of Young, Johnson was no otherwise censurable than as he indolently consented to receive it from it's writer, Mr. H. Croft. It is, in truth, a production of no merit, and which is calculated to excite no other emotion in the reader, than that of resentment for the loss of time, which has been incurred by it's perusal.

But we must return from our digression, to give our readers the second extract, which we promised them from the life of Pope.

l. lxvii.—'But whatever might be the imperfections of our great poet's person or temper, yet the vigour, force, and activity of his mind were almost unparalleled. His whole life, and every hour of it, in sickness and in health, was devoted solely, and with unremitting diligence, to cultivate that one art in which he had determined to excel. Many other poets have been unavoidably immersed in business, in wars, in politics, and diverted from their favourite bias and pursuits. Of Pope it might truly and solely be said, *Versus amat, hoc studet unum*. His whole thoughts, time, and talents were spent on his works alone: which works, if we dispassionately and carefully review, we shall find, that the largest portion of them, for he attempted nothing of the epic or dramatic, is of the didactic, moral, and satiric kind; and, consequently, not of the most poetic species of poetry. There is nothing in so sublime a style as the bard of Gray. This is a matter of *fact*, not of *reasoning*; and means to point out, what Pope *has actually done*, not what, if he had put out his full strength, he was *capable of doing*. No man can possibly think, or can hint, that the author of the *Rape of the Lock*, and the *Eloisa*, wanted *imagination*, or *sensibility*, or *pathetic*; but he certainly did not so often indulge and exert those talents, nor give so many proofs of them, as he did of strong sense and judgment. This turn of mind led him to admire french models; he studied *Boileau* attentively; formed himself upon *him*, as Milton formed himself upon the grecian and italian Sons of *Fancy*. He stuck to describing *modern manners*; but these *manners*, because they are *familiar, uniform,*

form, artificial, and polished, are, for these *four* reasons, in their very nature *unfit* for any lofty effort of the muse. He gradually became one of the most correct, even, and exact poets that ever wrote; but yet with force and spirit, finishing his pieces with a patience, a care, and assiduity, that no business nor avocation ever interrupted; so that if he does not frequently ravish and transport his reader, like his master *Dryden*, yet he does not so often disgust him, like *Dryden*, with unexpected inequalities and absurd improprieties. He is never above or below his subject. Whatever poetical enthusiasm he actually possessed, he with-held and suppressed. The perusal of him, in most of his pieces, affects not our minds with such strong emotions as we feel from *Homer* and *Milton*; so that no man, of a true poetical spirit, is master of himself while he reads them. Hence he is a writer fit for universal perusal, and of general utility; adapted to all ages and all stations; for the old and for the young; the man of business and the scholar. He who would think, and there are many such, the *Fairy Queen*, *Palamon and Arcite*, the *Tempest*, or *Comus*, childish and romantic, may relish *Pope*. Surely it is no narrow, nor invidious, nor niggardly encomium to say, he is the great Poet of Reason; the *first* of *ethical* authors in verse; which he was by choice, not necessity. And this species of writing is, after all, the surest road to an extensive and immediate reputation. It lies more level to the general capacities of men, than the higher flights of more exalted and genuine poetry. *Waller* was more applauded than the *Paradise Lost*; and we all remember when *Churchill* was more in vogue than *Gray*.

‘ We live in a reasoning and prosaic age. The forests of Fairy-land have been rooted up and destroyed; the castles and the palaces of fancy are in ruins; the magic wand of *Prospero* is broken and buried many fathoms in the earth. *Telemachus* was so universally read and admired in France, not so much on account of the poetical images and the fine imitations of *Homer* which it contained, but for the many artful and satirical allusions to the profligate court of *Louis xiv.* scattered up and down. He that treats of fashionable follies, and the topics of the day, that describes present persons and recent events, as *Dryden* did in his *Abfalom* and *Achitophel*, finds many readers, whose understandings and whose passions he gratifies, and who love politics far more than poetry.

‘ The name of *Chesterfield* on one hand, and of *Walpole* on the other, failed not to make a poem bought up, and talked of. And it cannot be doubted, that the Odes of *Horace* which celebrated, and Satires which ridiculed, well-known and real characters at Rome, were more eagerly read, and more frequently cited, than the *Aeneid* and the *Georgic* of *Virgil*. Malignant and insensible must be the critic, who should impotently dare to assert, that *Pope* wanted *genius* and *imagination*; but perhaps it may safely be affirmed, that his *peculiar* and *characteristical* excellencies were good sense and judgment. And this was the opinion of *Atterbury* and *Bolingbroke*; and it was also his own opinion. See in volume ninth, the fifth and the nineteenth letters; particularly what he said to *Warburton* at the end of the latter,’

This

This passage bears honourable testimony to Dr. W.'s discriminating judgment; and there is not any thing in it which calls for our very pointed dissent. Among those sons of fancy, to whom our own country has given birth, Pope must certainly be ranked after Shakspeare, Milton, Dryden, Spencer. If Dr. W. would insinuate, that the subject of his comments ought to be placed yet lower, and in a class with any of our later poets, we must resist the insinuation, as not supported by any just evidence; and apparently resulting from a mere caprice of taste. That 'Pope has not produced any thing in *so sublime a style* as the "Bard of Gray," may be true; but from this fact, on it's admission, we cannot persuade ourselves, that Dr. W. would wish us to infer, that, in the possessions of high poetic talent, Pope was less affluent than Gray. The former, indeed, has not selected any one entire subject for his muse of so lofty a nature as "the Bard;" but in many of his pieces he has brilliantly exhibited his ability to conceive and to execute in the grand style. With respect to Gray, we beg to rank ourselves with his admirers, and not, where Dr. W. seems to have stationed himself, with his idolaters. His few compositions appear to be the productions of industry and taste, in their operation on the materials of learning; and we were impressed with more respect for his powers by the perusal of his letters, than by that of his poems. In these we can distinguish no strong cast of original thought, or any of those flashes of fancy, which strike in the pages of Dryden, and cover their faults with splendour. In Gray all is order and elegance, harmony and beauty; but all, at the same time, is, too obviously, selection and labour. The whole is richly sweet; but it is drawn, under our very eyes, from a thousand flowers, and we are witnesses of the long and painful process, with which it is strained and wrought into the tasteful and golden mass. "The Bard," which Dr. W. seems disposed to place above the first lyric effusions of Dryden, is undoubtedly a noble composition: but it is rather stiff and heavy in it's march; and betrays too manifestly, in our opinion, the effort, which was necessary for it's production. In some single stanzas of Dryden we can distinguish more of the "mens divinior," a brighter eruption of the fiery soul of genuine inspiration, than in all the Odes of Gray.

Before we leave this subject, we are tempted to observe, that an admired passage in "the Bard,"

"Loose his beard and hoary hair

Stream'd, like a meteor, to the troubled air,"

has always appeared to us as an attempt, which, having overshot the sublime, had fallen into the burlesque. When Milton talks of

"The imperial ensign, which full high advanced

Shone, like a meteor, streaming to the wind;"

he paints to our eyes the floating banner of the prince of Hell, with as much justness as magnificence; and we admire the imagination, which could at once illustrate and enlarge so grand an object: but when the same image is transferred to the "loose beard and hoary hair" of an old bard, we are struck with the disproportion between the subject and it's intended illustration, and we are urged to smile rather than admire. In Milton also, it may be remarked, that not

only the streaming, but the lustre of the imperial ensign, which "*shone*," and, like the other banners, no doubt, "*with orient colours waved*," forms it's resemblance to a meteor: whilst, in Gray, the similitude consists merely in the motion of the things which are compared; and the image, already too bulky for the poet's purpose, is further most injudiciously heightened by the interposition of the epithet "*troubled*." Dryden has introduced a similar allusion with great sublimity into a speech of Antony's, in the "*All for Love*:"

"Why was I raised the meteor of the world,
Hung in the skies, and blazing as I travell'd,
Till all my fires were spent; and then cast downward,
To be trod out by Cæsar?"—

Among the odes of Gray "*The Bard*" incontestibly asserts the first place: of the rest, that "*on the Death of a favourite Cat*," "*the Triumphs of Owen*," and the "*Fatal Sisters*," cannot be allowed any pre-eminent or impressive merit. The "*Elegy*" is an unique; a gem of rare beauty, which it is not easy to praise beyond it's worth.

As, from what we have laid before them of the present work, and from their acquaintance with his Essay, our readers must now be sufficiently possessed of Dr. W.'s general opinions respecting Pope and his principal compositions, we shall attend only to a few notes in this publication, induced either by the matter that they may contain, or by the occasion which they may afford us of remark.

On a celebrated passage in the essay on criticism, ver. 56:

'Thus in the soul while memory prevails,
The solid power of understanding fails;
Where beams of bright imagination play,
The memory's soft figures melt away.'

the editor's observation is perfectly just, though in opposition to the sentiments which he has delivered in his Essay.

VOL. I, p. 182, v. 56, note.—'The beauty of imagery in these lines should not make us blind to the want of justness in the thought. To represent strength of memory as incompatible with solidity of understanding, is so obviously contrary to fact, that I presume the author had in his eye only the case of extraordinary memory for names, dates, and things, which offer no ideas to the mind; which has, indeed, been often displayed in great perfection by mere idiots. For, it is difficult to conceive how the faculty of judgment, which consists in the comparison of different ideas, can at all be exercised without the power of storing up ideas in the mind, and calling them forth when required. From the second couplet, apparently meant to be the converse of the first, one would suppose that he consulted [considered] the understanding and the imagination as the same faculty, else the counterpart is defective. Further, so far is it from being true, that imagination obliterates the figures of memory, that the circumstance which causes a thing to be remembered is principally its being associated with other ideas by the agency of the imagination. If the poet only meant, that those ideas about which imagination is occupied, are apt to exclude ideas of a different kind, the remark is true, but it should have been differently expressed.'

In

In a note on ver. 364 of the same poem—

'Tis not enough no harshness gives offence:'

after mentioning the minute attention with which the ancients selected their words, and modulated their periods, the editor informs us, that 'Cicero records the approbation he met with for finishing a sentence with the word *cōmprōbāvit*, being a *dichoreè*. Had he finished it otherwise,' he says, 'it might have been *animo satis, auribus non satis*.' In this passage, we believe, that the learned editor has been guilty of a slight mistake; and that it is of Cinna, the atrocious colleague of Marius, and not of himself, that the great orator speaks, when he relates the effect of that melodious close, *comprobat*. As we have not the passage immediately for reference, we must rely on the accuracy of our recollection. We have always considered these lines in the prologue to Cato,

'Tyrants no more their savage nature kept,

And foes to virtue wonder'd how they wept,'

as referring to the well-known circumstance of Alexander, the tyrant of Pheræ, weeping at the Troades of Euripides, and retiring in confusion from the theatre. The story is related by Plutarch and, with a slight variation, by Ælian. What the editor mentions of Lewis xiv, p. 343, is by no means so strongly in point; but it may, perhaps, be adduced only as an additional proof of the power of the tragic muse.

On the subject of that pathetic 'Elegy to the memory of an unfortunate lady,' who has hitherto been the occasion of much ineffectual inquiry, Dr. W. supplies us with very important intelligence. 'After many and wide inquiries, I have been informed,' says the editor, p. 336, 'that her name was Wainbury; and that (which is a singular circumstance) she was as ill-shaped and deformed as our author [by whom, as we are told in a preceding sentence of the note, she was beloved.] Her death was not by a sword, but, what would less bear to be told poetically, she hanged herself.' As this account differs from that which is given by Ruffhead, who is silent as to the lady's name, we should have been thankful to Dr. W. for the authority on which he rests it.

Of the 'Epistle of Eloisa to Abelard' Dr. W. intimates, that there is an indelicacy in a part of the subject, 'which is with difficulty disguised by the exquisite art and address of the poet.' Dr. W. might have added, that some passages in this admirable poem are of a tendency injurious to morals; and, that to this circumstance is to be imputed that disapprobation, with which Pope always spoke, in his more advanced years, of this beautiful offspring of his muse. Unacquainted with this fact, which we state as certain, and as highly honourable to the poet's moral sensibilities, Dr. Johnson only says, "This piece was not much his favourite in his latter years, though I never heard upon what principle he slighted it." Some seductive lines of this fascinating piece, have, it is known, been cited as excusing the irregularity, which they have encouraged, if not originally suggested.

On the 'Essay on Man' we fully concur in opinion with Johnson; and must pronounce it to be a composition, which, with all its numerous beauties, is the least happy of its great author's more laboured productions. Dr. W. professes to think rather differently on

on the subject; but he animadverts very freely and acutely on those improprieties of thought and of style, which occasionally interrupt the perfection of the poem. His observation on a part of the third epistle is perfectly just: Vol. III, p. 97: 'From these lines (v. 99) to the end of the epistle, we find more imagery than in any other parts of this essay.' The 220 verses in question are, indeed, in a strain of the most delightful poetry; and they have always been regarded by us as constituting the chief ornament of the essay.

On verse 220 of the fourth epistle,

'From Macedonia's madman to the swede;'

the editor has a note, which we are induced by it's matter to transcribe. Vol. III, p. 144.

'He has fallen into the common cant about Alexander the Great. Think of the scene in Darius's tent; of the foundation of the city of Alexandria, and the extent of its commerce; of the many colonies he established; of his refusing to treat the persians as slaves; of the grief expressed by the persians at his death; of the encouragement he gave to arts, both useful and elegant; and of his assistance to Aristotle his master, in making experiments and promoting science: the encomiums bestowed on him by two such judges of men as Bacon and Montesquieu, outweigh the censures of Boileau and Pope. Charles XII. deserved not to be joined with him: Charles XII. tore out the leaf in which Boileau had censured Alexander. Robertson, in his disquisitions on India, has given a fine and comprehensive view of the very grand design which Alexander had formed to annex that extensive and opulent country to his empire. Section 1. appendix.' To consider Alexander merely as a conqueror, is to contemplate him only in his subordinate character. The extent of his views, and the comprehension of his mind, were truly wonderful, and sufficient to place him with the first of human intelligences. The rapidity and the effect, with which he accomplished his great designs, were the just results of that wisdom with which he concerted them. What he achieved was only the means of a greater end, and formed nothing more than a part of one magnificent plan, the full developement of which was prevented by his death. The eyes, therefore, which are confined to his exploits in the field, take in a small portion only of the range of his mind; and may be so far deceived, as to fancy this great instrument of providence on the degraded level of a tatar ravager. Bayle seems to have formed a just idea of the illustrious macedonian; but they, who are desirous of viewing a more perfect delineation of him, must have recourse to the "*Voyage of Near-chus*," lately published by the learned and able master of Westminster school. In this work, the classic reader will find a truer resemblance of the son of Philip, than is given by any modern writer; and will, at the same time, be gratified with the display of much accurate erudition in the vehicle of clear and vigorous composition.

On the sentiment with which Arbuthnot concludes his celebrated epitaph on the infamous Chartres, viz. that riches are discovered to be of small estimation in the sight of God, by his bestowing them on the most unworthy of mortals, our editor remarks, Vol. III, p. 238, 'This fine reflection has been much admired: it is also to be found in La Bruyere; but

but he evidently borrowed it from Seneca: *non sunt divitiæ bonum; nullo modo magis potest Deus concupita traducere, quam si ille ad perpeffenos defert, ab optimis abigit.* This passage was pointed out to me by an amiable friend, equally skilled in all parts of useful and ornamental learning, in matters both of taste and philosophy, Dr. Heberden.' We cite this note principally for the purpose of giving our plaudit, with Dr. W.'s, to the venerable Dr. Heberden, for the consistency and excellence with which he has supported his part to the last scene of a long life. He is known and endeared to us by his ability, his learning, his integrity, his benevolence; and we cannot hesitate to style him the delight of his acquaintance, and the honour of his profession, and his species.

"His saltem accumulem donis —."

In the same epistle on the use of riches, the poet says finely of wealth,

'In heaps, like ambergris, a stink it lies,
But, well dispers'd, is incense to the skies.'

Has it been remarked, that this allusion is borrowed immediately from Dryden? In his dedication prefixed to the translation of the *Aeneis*, he says, speaking of the diction of Virgil, "For there is he, like ambergris, a rich perfume, but of so close and glutinous a body, that it must be opened with inferior scents of musk or civet; or the sweetness will not be drawn out."

"Sed fugit interea, fugit irreparabile tempus,

Singula dum capti circumvectamur amore:"

or, to speak in plain english, we are allured by the agreeableness of the work before us, to assign to it more than it's just proportion of our time, and of the pages of our Review. We must hasten, therefore, to close the article, by observing, that we have examined this edition, which comprehends, with the most scrupulous exactness, the whole of Pope's works in prose and verse, his translations of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* being only excepted; and that we can recommend it to the admirers of our distinguished poet, as containing a full illustration of their favourite writer, with a large mass of correct criticism, and of various and useful information. w. w.

BIOGRAPHY. MISCELLANEOUS.

ART. II. *Memoirs of the Author of a Vindication of the Rights of Woman.* By William Godwin. Small 8vo. 199 pa. Price 3s. 6d. boards. Johnson. 1798.

WE learn from these memoirs, that this singular woman was born the 27th of april, 1759, in London, or at a farm upon Epping-forest, for it cannot be exactly ascertained which of these was the place of her birth.

Her education was slender, and she had none of those early advantages, which have been the lot of most women who have been distinguished in the literary world. She was remarkable in early life for vivacity and resolution. At nineteen years of age she lived with a Mrs. Dawson of Bath, as a companion. This lady was of a capricious,

cious, troublesome temper, nevertheless Mrs. Godwin continued in her house two years; and, by her firmness and vigour, inspired the old lady with respect and awe: she only left Mrs. Dawson to attend to the wants of her dying mother, to whom her behaviour appears to have been very dutiful. And this attention to her mother was the more to be admired in Mrs. G.; as her parent possessed none of those qualities, which would have inspired her vigorous and energetic mind with sentiments of respect and reverence.

After the death of her mother, Mrs. G., by the imprudence of her father, found herself in very narrow circumstances, and she was anxious to fix upon some mode of life, which would not only secure her *independence*, but enable her to be of use to her family and the public: a zeal for the public good seems to have ever animated her mind. In order to accomplish both these purposes, she determined to establish a day-school, to be under the superintendence of one of her most intimate friends, miss Fanny Blood, her two sisters, and herself. This school she opened at Islington, but afterwards removed it to Newington-green.

Here Mrs. G. commenced an acquaintance, which was matured into friendship, with Dr. Richard Price, the celebrated calculator and politician. Mrs. G. had been bred to the established church; she was led by her friendship with Price, not to become a sectarian, but occasionally to attend the dissenters worship. She still frequently attended the established church until the last ten years of her life, in which she frequented no public worship, thinking the contemplation of the Deity the worship best adapted to his nature and to ours.

The health of miss Blood being impaired, she, agreeably to the advice of medical men, sailed for Lisbon. This circumstance is worthy of notice, for it gave occasion to the display of that heroic friendship, which so much distinguished the life and character of Mrs. G. Hearing that her friend was likely to die at Lisbon, Mrs. G. abandoned her school, in contempt of every consideration of interest, and what the cold-hearted world calls prudence, and having borrowed a sufficient sum of money, flew to Lisbon to attend the last wishes of her friend.

Let those who sit in judgment upon the character of Mrs. G. never forget this circumstance, or the ardour of friendship it discovers.

On her return to England, she found her school had greatly suffered by her absence, and she was recommended to pursue literature as a means of support. Her benevolence, which never slept, made now new demands upon her, the father and mother of miss Blood wanted pecuniary assistance. She wrote a small volume, entitled 'Thoughts on the Education of Daughters,' for which Mr. Johnson, the bookseller, gave her ten guineas, which she bore away with exultation to the succour of infirmity and age. An offer was now made to her, which she accepted, and Mrs. G. became governess to the daughters of lord viscount Kingsborough, eldest son of the earl of Kingston, of the kingdom of Ireland. In the family of lord Kingsborough she spent about a year, and when she left it carried with her the affections of the young ladies, and the respect of their parents.

Mrs.

Mrs. G. now determined to enter upon her literary plan, and returned to London, first to the house of Mr. Johnson, whose liberality she praises with great feeling in her letters, and afterwards to a house she took in George-street, on the Surry side of Blackfriars-bridge. Here she pursued her literary labours, wrote some of her most popular productions, the answer to Mr. Burke and the Vindication of the Rights of Women, translated several works for Mr. Johnson; for she had made herself acquainted by this time with the french and the german languages, and contributed many articles to the Analytical Review.

At the house of Mr. Johnson she met with some choice spirits, to whose conversation she listened with instruction and pleasure; among whom were the celebrated Fuseli, Dr. George Fordyce, Mr. Bonycastle, and Mr. Anderson. Mr. Fuseli, though many years older than Mrs. G., possesses so much learning and knowledge, such vivacity of wit, and energy in conversation, that we do not wonder that he was listened to with eager attention by the vindicator of the rights of woman. Mrs. G. saw him often, and felt at last her admiration of his talents soften into a more tender sentiment. Every precept, every observation seemed to come mended from his tongue, and she felt her affections fixing, where her attention had been long engaged. Mr. Fuseli was married. Mrs. G., who was formed for exquisite feeling, found her situation unpleasant, and anxious to cure the wounds her sensibility had suffered, she obeyed at once the dictates of her principles, and fulfilled a duty she owed herself: she left London, and went to France, where she resided for upwards of two years.

Here she became acquainted with Mr. Gilbert Imlay, a native of the united states of America, and known by a publication on the state of Kentucky.

Mrs. G. had always entertained the most violent prejudices against the conditions of european marriages. She did not think it consistent with the nature of man for him to enter into an indissoluble union. She did not like those reciprocal legal responsibilities, which take away the individuality of action and conduct.

When she became acquainted with Mr. Imlay, she was liable to some pecuniary demands, and she was anxious not to involve Mr. Imlay, who was not then a man of property, in them. But this is the condition of european marriage. Heloise declined marriage from a similar principle, not to obstruct the preferment of her lover.

Mrs. G. took upon her the duties of marriage, without the ceremony—she lived with Mr. Imlay. She was now more than thirty-three years of age, her judgment was mature, and she had passed the heyday of the blood. Her choice she declares was that of principle, of the truth of which she entertained no doubt at all.

This connection did not prove fortunate. Mr. Imlay disappointed all her hopes. He abandoned her. In april, 1795, she returned to London. The conduct of Mr. Imlay drove her to desperation, and she attempted to put an end to her life, but was recovered. Her misery increased, and again she attempted to destroy herself. For this purpose she repaired to Putney, determining there to throw herself into the river.

We

We here have an instance of great resolution. It rained, and Mrs. G., to facilitate her descent in the water, walked up and down the bridge for half an hour, that her clothes might be thoroughly drenched and heavy. She now leaped from the top of the bridge, but finding still a difficulty in sinking, she tried to press her clothes closely around her. She at last was insensible; but at this moment she was discovered, and taken out. She always spoke of the pain she underwent in this attempt as so severe, that she should prefer any other mode of death to drowning, in future.

The next remarkable event in the life of Mrs. G. is her union with Mr. Godwin. They had long known each other; and their union took place about six months after Mrs. G. had finally lost all hope of reclaiming Mr. Imlay, but full eighteen months after all rational ground of that hope had existed.

They did not marry, both disliking the responsibilities and conditions attending that ceremony in England. After, however, Mrs. G. found herself pregnant, she thought it better to submit to the ceremony of marriage, than to that exclusion from society, to which living without it in this country would subject her, and which would infallibly have narrowed the circle of her usefulness.

She appears to have lived very happily with Mr. Godwin until she died in September, 1797. Her death was the consequence of child birth.

Such is the narrative here offered to the public of the life of this very extraordinary woman. We feel ourselves impelled to make some observations both on these memoirs, and on the character of Mrs. G.

The narrative is easy, and we believe very faithful and true, so far it is entitled to praise. But it is obvious, that Mrs. G. entertained singular opinions, and reduced them into practice. This circumstance will invite many severely to criticise, and some to censure her character. As this is the case, we think it was due to Mrs. G., to have stated *how* those opinions were formed, and the *reasons* by which she supported them.

It is indeed a bald narrative of the life of a woman, very eventful and touching. We think it entitled to very limited praise. In another respect it is deficient. It gives us no correct history of the formation of Mrs. G.'s mind. We are neither informed of her favourite books, her hours of study, nor her attainments in languages and philosophy. She contemplated nature with rapture we are told, and enjoyed much of it's inspiration. Of this there can be no doubt; but as the chief use of biography is to teach us to attain to eminence in virtue and knowledge, we think too little is told us concerning the subjects of Mrs. G.'s study, and her manner of studying: but, perhaps, instead of censuring, we ought to lament the paucity of the means of information.

We conceive exceptions will be taken to her conduct in three respects; and we think too little attention is given to such probable exceptions in the narrative.

1st, Mrs. G.'s notions and practice respecting marriage will meet violent objection.

Without offering to vindicate her in these respects, we must be allowed to observe, that we think them questions of prudence rather

rather than morality. He, who is not bewildered and lost in the mists of superstition, must be obliged to acknowledge, that there is something more necessary to render the sexual connection between man and woman pure, than the public ceremony of marriage; and that it is very easy for the vilest prostitution to exist under the sanction of this ceremony.

The sexual intercourse is common to all animals, and man in this respect differs from others only by connecting with that intercourse sentiments of affection and attachment to an individual subject. This mental approbation sublimates and purifies the appetite of nature, and, *without this*, whatever ceremony may have taken place, the intercourse is brutal, and the essence of prostitution remains. Mrs. G. had the offer of marriage with a respectable man, whom she did not regard with this mental affection, as appears from her letters; but she rejected him under this conviction.

And if the ceremony of marriage cannot protect from the just charge of prostitution, in any case where a mental attachment has not preceded the sexual intercourse, neither can the neglect of the ceremony of marriage make that intercourse immoral, when that neglect has flowed from motives of benevolence, or the convictions of immoral imposition. The ceremony of marriage performed or neglected alters not the morality of the thing, but it is essentially and solely a question of prudence, as it is the legal tie by which the laws of men compel to certain attentions and responsibilities. When, therefore, we consider the present very corrupt state of men, we are inclined to conclude Mrs. G.'s confidence too great, and her conduct imprudent and hazardous. That marriage ought to be an *indissoluble union*, where the parties prove wholly incompatible, we do not believe; and we think, notwithstanding the powerful reasoning of Hume on this subject, that Milton was right, and that divorces should be allowed in many cases, where they cannot in this country be obtained.

Superficial minds will be apt to say, that the experience of Mrs. G. is the best refutation of her theory: but we dare not say this, as long as we see, which we daily do, thousands married, whose union is as *unhappy* as the union of this lady and Mr. Imlay.

If any think, that, without accusing Mrs. G. of *immorality*, a charge of *indelicacy* will fix, on account of her neglect of the established rules of the community; we have only to observe, that Mrs. G. was an original thinker, differed from the vulgar in most things, had long reflected on this subject and drawn decisive conclusions, and entered upon this connection with Mr. Imlay, *in France, and at a moment when the discussion of the subject of marriage agitated the national councils, and when a new system of thinking on that point almost universally obtained*. That, therefore, may appear to us in our circumstances indelicate, which *there* would not have appeared to be so.

We have however observed, that we think her conduct *imprudent*, while men continue as corrupt as they now are, and we are far from holding it up for imitation. Her nature was generous in the extreme, and inclined to place confidence, when it ought, perhaps, to have cherished suspicion.

2. The next charge we expect to hear advanced against the character of Mrs. G., is the versatility of her attachments. It will be said, to-day she loves Mr. Fufeli, to-morrow attaches herself to Mr. Imlay, and, the moment Imlay finally abandons her, we find her in the arms of Mr. Godwin.

But what is there in all this? Those, who feel powerfully one impression, are, no doubt, the most easily susceptible of another.

Rochefocault, in his maxims, the result of a profound study of mankind, asserts, that the heart, which is torn by a disappointed affection, is the best prepared to form a new one. *But did Mrs. G. ever renounce an attachment?* He who reads her letters will declare, that the possibility of such a conduct did not exist in her nature. Her love was more lasting than it's object.

Her attachment to Mr. Fufeli was conceived against her wishes and efforts. It grew into no connection. She travelled to banish his image, and no better expedient remains to her who would discard one recollection, than the assiduous cultivation of another. The only question in the case is, whether she abandoned Imlay too soon, who had abandoned her many months? Had he died, a thousand recollections might have played round her heart, and made her cherish his image. As it was, every thing conspired to convince her, that he ought to be banished from her mind. He who reads her letters will stand astonished at the fervour, strength, and duration of her affection for Imlay. At the bar of reason, in this respect, Mrs. G. is more than exculpated. It is of the nature of a second marriage, but there was less in this case to keep her affections from seeking a new object, or admitting one.

3. Her attempts to destroy herself, when she had a child deserted by it's father, will be thought worthy of censure. To this we can only say, that we possess not the scale of suffering by which to estimate what every one ought to endure before he seeks relief in death. We see Mrs. G. struggling with an overwhelming sorrow, and we have no power to throw an arrow at one so sadly pierced. We wish her character and conduct to be seriously and candidly examined, and we would protect it, if we could, from the freedom of licentious tongues. She appears to us another Heloise; and it is a reflection upon men, that Abelard should have possessed the first, and Imlay the second of these illustrious women.

A head of Mrs. G. is prefixed to these memoirs, which exhibits at once a striking likeness, and a very interesting figure. We think every one who reads these memoirs ought, in justice to Mrs. G., to read her letters; and we wish, indeed, that they had not been separately printed.

Imperfect as these memoirs are, we have no fellowship with him, who can read them without a tear.

ART. III. *The Posthumous Works of the Author of a Vindication of the Rights of Woman.* In 4 Vols. Small 8vo. About 800 pa. Price 14s. in boards. Johnson. 1798.

THESE posthumous works consist of 'The Wrongs of Woman, or Maria, a fragment,' 'Lessons for Children,' letters, and miscellaneous pieces.

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'The Wrongs of Woman' is a novel, in which Mrs. Godwin appears to have designed the vindication of her own sentiments and conduct. Maria, her heroine, is at first married to a very worthless man, who persecutes her in the most cruel manner; and, for the sake of obtaining her fortune, confines her in a mad-house. She there meets with a young man, who was also confined under false pretences by those who ought to have been his friends, and his generous concern for her, and the sympathy that their condition inspired, fix her affections. They escape from confinement and live together. She is pregnant, and her husband, after persecuting her in every possible way, commences a prosecution against Darnford her lover for adultery, and obtains damages.

It was the design of Mrs. G., that this novel should consist of three parts; one of which only is completed, and part of that has not received the author's last touches. It is a very simple and a very probable story, founded upon daily occurrences and existing laws. It was evidently the design of Mrs. G. to represent a woman, injured by her husband, without the dissolution of the marriage, and in defiance of the laws, connecting herself with another man, bearing all the persecution that the laws in this respect authorize, and at last sinking into voluntary death, overcome with the weight of her calamity.

Mrs. G. meant to vindicate this conduct of her heroine, in the exercise of her natural and social rights; and to show, that the laws and customs which render this conduct dangerous, and expose it to suffering, are the foundation of *the wrongs of woman*, the sorrows which she now is heir to.

It makes an essential part of her plan, to assert the propriety of allowing *divorces* to take place, in many cases where they are now not to be obtained.

It is not easy to criticise an unfinished work. The *dramatic effect* which might have been produced, had the author finished her design, cannot now be estimated. The fragment abounds with just sentiments, forcefully expressed, and we particularly admire the justness of Jemima's story. Giving all necessary weight to the considerations of the place and condition in which they were, and the sympathy they were likely to inspire, we yet think that Maria is represented as too easily impressed; for there is nothing dignified or touching in the account which Darnford gives of himself.

When Mrs. G. employs the strong language of passion in this fragment, we think she is not always happy in the *construction of her sentences*.

They are full of sentiment and energy, but want simplicity. We will take two or three as examples.

Vol. I, p. 1.—'Surprise, astonishment, that bordered on distraction, seemed to have suspended her faculties, till, waking by degrees to a keen sense of anguish, a whirlwind of rage and indignation roused her torpid pulse. One recollection with frightful velocity following another, threatened to fire her brain, and make her a fit companion for the terrific inhabitants, whose groans and shrieks were no unsubstantial sounds of whistling winds, or startled birds, modulated by a romantic fancy, which amuse while they af-

fright; but such tones of misery as carry a dreadful certainty directly to the heart. What effect must they then have produced on one, true to the touch of sympathy, and tortured by maternal apprehension!

‘ Her infant’s image was continually floating on Maria’s sight, and the first smile of intelligence remembered, as none but a mother, an unhappy mother, can conceive. She heard her half speaking cooing, and felt the little twinkling fingers on her burning bosom—a bosom bursting with the nutriment for which this cherished child might now be pining in vain. From a stranger she could indeed receive the maternal aliment, Maria was grieved at the thought—but who would watch her with a mother’s tenderness, a mother’s self denial?’

P. 7.—‘ To the master of this most horrid of prisons, she had, soon after her entrance, raved of injustice, in accents that would have justified his treatment, had not a malignant smile, when she appealed to his judgment, with a dreadful conviction stifled her remonstrating complaints.’

P. 14.—‘ Indulged sorrow, she perceived, must blunt or sharpen the faculties to the two opposite extremes; producing stupidity, the moping melancholy of indolence; or the restless activity of a disturbed imagination. She sunk into one state, after being fatigued by the other: till the want of occupation became even more painful than the actual pressure or apprehension of sorrow; and the confinement that froze her into a nook of existence, with an unvaried prospect before her, the most insupportable of evils.’

We produce these examples of faulty and harsh construction, from the beginning of the fragment, as this part of the novel is said to have received the last polish of the author; and we think, in general, Mrs. G.’s style, when most laboured, is most exceptionable.

We heartily lament, that this work was not finished by Mrs. G., for although it might not have ‘ given a new impulse to the manners of a world,’ we have no doubt that it would have been a pyramid on which her name might have been engraven for ages.

The lessons for children are simple, and well adapted to the purposes for which they were intended*.

We think that the letters are all in the last two volumes, that are greatly worthy of notice. Most of these letters are addressed to him, who is by his conduct to Mrs. G. ‘ damned to eternal fame;’ and we have no scruple in saying, they will be valued as long as the language of the heart is held dear. Let no one speak of Mrs. G. who has not *seen these* letters; they form the true account of her life and character. They show, that whatever were Mrs. G.’s opinions respecting marriage, her love was pure, ardent, individual, and exclusive. We will lay two or three of them before the reader, who, however, we think will give little proof of his sensibility, if he be not induced by these specimens to read the whole.

* This little work is sold separately, price 6d.

Vol. III, p. 28.—' Monday night. I have just received your kind and rational letter, and would fain hide my face, glowing with shame for my folly.—I would hide it in your bosom, if you would again open it to me, and nestle closely till you bade my fluttering heart be still, by saying that you forgave me. With eyes overflowing with tears, and in the humblest attitude, I intreat you.—Do not turn from me, for indeed I love you fondly, and have been very wretched, since the night I was so cruelly hurt by thinking that you had no confidence in me——

' It is time for me to grow more reasonable, a few more of these caprices of sensibility would destroy me. I have, in fact, been very much indisposed for a few days past, and the notion that I was tormenting, or perhaps killing, a poor little animal, about whom I am grown anxious and tender, now I feel it alive, made me worse. My bowels have been dreadfully disordered, and every thing I ate or drank disagreed with my stomach; still I feel intimations of its existence, though they have been fainter.

' Do you think that the creature goes regularly to sleep? I am ready to ask as many questions as Voltaire's man of forty crowns. Ah! do not continue to be angry with me! You perceive that I am already smiling through my tears—You have lightened my heart, and my frozen spirits are melting into playfulness.

' Write the moment you receive this. I shall count the minutes. But drop not an angry word—I cannot now bear it. Yet, if you think I deserve a scolding (it does not admit of a question, I grant), wait till you come back—and then, if you are angry one day, I shall be sure of seeing you the next.

' ——— did not write to you, I suppose, because he talked of going to H——. Hearing that I was ill, he called very kindly on me, not dreaming that it was some words that he uncautiously let fall, which rendered me so.

' God bless you, my love; do not shut your heart against a return of tenderness; and, as I now in fancy cling to you, be more than ever my support.—Feel but as affectionate when you read this letter, as I did writing it, and you will make happy your

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p. 41.—' Tuesday morning. I seize this opportunity to inform you, that I am to set out on Thursday with Mr. ———, and hope to tell you soon (on your lips) how glad I shall be to see you. I have just got my passport, so I do not foresee any impediment to my reaching H——, to bid you good-night next Friday in my new apartment—where I am to meet you and love, in spite of care, to smile me to sleep—for I have not caught much rest since we parted.

' You have, by your tenderness and worth, twisted yourself more artfully round my heart, than I supposed possible.—Let me indulge the thought, that I have thrown out some tendrils to cling to the elm by which I wish to be supported.—This is talking a new language for me!—But, knowing that I am not a parasite-plant, I am willing to receive the proofs of affection, that every pulse replies to, when I think of being once more in the same house with you.—God bless you!

Yours truly

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p. 58.

P. 58.—‘ September 22 *. I have just written two letters, that are going by other conveyances, and which I reckon on your receiving long before this. I therefore merely write, because I know I should be disappointed at seeing any one who had left you, if you did not send a letter, were it ever so short, to tell me why you did not write a longer—and you will want to be told, over and over again, that our little Hercules is quite recovered.

‘ Besides looking at me, there are three other things, which delight her—to ride in a coach; to look at a scarlet waistcoat, and hear loud music—yesterday, at the *fête*, she enjoyed the two latter; but, to honour J. J. Rousseau, I intend to give her a fash, the first she has ever had round her—and why not?—for I have always been half in love with him.

‘ Well, this you will say is trifling—shall I talk about alum or soap? There is nothing picturesque in your present pursuits; my imagination then rather chuses to ramble back to the barrier with you, or to see you coming to meet me, and my basket of grapes.—With what pleasure do I recollect your looks and words, when I have been sitting on the window, regarding the waving corn!

‘ Believe me, sage sir, you have not sufficient respect for the imagination—I could prove to you in a trice that it is the mother of sentiment, the great distinction of nature, the only purifier of the passions—animals have a portion of reason, and equal, if not more exquisite, senses: but no trace of imagination, or her offspring taste, appears in any of their actions. The impulse of the senses, passions, if you will, and the conclusions of reason, draw men together; but the imagination is the true fire, stolen from heaven, to animate this cold creature of clay, producing all those fine sympathies that lead to rapture, rendering men social by expanding their hearts, instead of leaving them leisure to calculate how many comforts society affords.

‘ If you call these observations romantic, a phrase in this place which would be tantamount to nonsensical, I shall be apt to retort, that you are embruted by trade, and the vulgar enjoyments of life—Bring me then back your barrier-face, or you shall have nothing to say to my barrier-girl; and I shall fly from you, to cherish the remembrances that will ever be dear to me; for I am yours truly
* * * *

Vol. IV, P. 10.—‘ I write you now on my knees; imploring you to send my child and the maid with —, to Paris, to be consigned to the care of madame —, rue —, section de —. Should they be removed; — can give their direction.

‘ Let the maid have all my clothes, without distinction.

‘ Pray pay the cook her wages, and do not mention the confession which I forced from her—a little sooner or later is of no consequence. Nothing but my extreme stupidity could have ren-

* * This is the first of a series of letters written during a separation of many months, to which no cordial meeting ever succeeded. They were sent from Paris, and bear the address of London.

dered me blind so long. Yet, whilst you assured me that you had no attachment, I thought we might still have lived together.

'I shall make no comments on your conduct; or any appeal to the world. Let my wrongs sleep with me! Soon, very soon shall I be at peace. When you receive this, my burning head will be cold.

'I would encounter a thousand deaths, rather than a night like the last. Your treatment has thrown my mind into a state of chaos; yet I am serene. I go to find comfort, and my only fear is, that my poor body will be insulted by an endeavour to recal my hated existence. But I shall plunge into the Thames, where there is the least chance of my being snatched from the death I seek.

'God bless you! May you never know by experience what you have made me endure. Should your sensibility ever awake, remorse will find its way to your heart; and, in the midst of business and sensual pleasure, I shall appear before you, the victim of your deviation from rectitude.

Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, farewell! Thou hast asserted the rights, and received an uncommon portion of the wrongs of woman. Thy life was imbittered by those whose duty it was to succour and to sooth thee. Thy name is pursued by the censures of the licentious and malignant. But better times approach, and thy vindication is secure. Thy name shall yet be mentioned with those, who have been distinguished for virtue and talents; and under this persuasion we are contented, that for a time thou shouldst suffer the reproach of married and unmarried prostitutes.

Y. S.

TRAVELS.

ART. IV. *Travels in Portugal; through the Provinces of Entre Douro E Minho, Beira, Estremadura, and Alem-Tejo, in the Years 1789 and 1790. Consisting of Observations on the Manners, Customs, Trade, public Buildings, Arts, Antiquities, &c. of that Kingdom.* By James Murphy, Architect. Illustrated with Plates. 4to. 311 pages. Price, in boards, 1l. 7s. Strahan. 1795.

THE intercourse of Britain and Ireland with Portugal has hitherto been little more than commercial: content to barter commodities, establish factories, taste and adulterate it's wines, pick it's fruit, weigh it's gold or probe it's diamonds, furnish now and then a young victim of superstition for it's convents, and an old one of debauchery for it's cemeteries; they have with a supercilious glance passed it's internal, political, religious, and moral establishments; it's social progress; the state of it's arts, and claims to science. Nor has this indifference of curiosity been confined to modern Lusitania: the history of a country that gave birth to the Gamas, the Castros, the Magalhães, and the Camoens; from which discovery spread her wings, doubled the Cape, opened and gave laws to India, wrested commerce from Venice, and once contested the empire of a hemisphere with Spain; has been

suffered to remain buried in the dust of mouldering libraries, amid the legendary trash of chronicles, written in a language little read, and less understood.

How far this neglect has been supplied by the author of these travels we now proceed to examine: were it not a hopeless, it would be a very unpleasing task, to contest with a writer, who endeavours to disarm criticism, or disappointed curiosity, by a modest avowal of his own defects, and to excuse the scantiness of information by the alleged inaccessibility to fuller, and more genuine materials.

Mr. M. travelled as an architect, under the patronage of Mr. B. Conynghame: an account of the former and present state of architecture in the country he visited must therefore be considered as the leading feature of his work: and of this part of his researches he has acquitted himself with equal diligence and judgment. Without a residence sufficiently long, without introduction sufficiently distinguished, nothing but a superficial account of a country's face, and the public manners of its inhabitants, can be expected: churches or monuments of devotion were the chief object of our traveller, consequently convents his chief abode:—in a country where absolute government has levelled the great mass of a nation; where nobility is a mere appendage of the throne, and the people the vassals of both; little is left for characteristic observation, without penetrating the shell, and diving to intimate acquaintance: as this was neither the object, nor in the power of our traveller, we content ourselves with the information he was able to snatch as he passed, and gladly accompany him from the wine vaults and processions of Oporto, through bad roads, made worse by rain, to the devout heights and basking friars of Coimbra, and thence to the royal monastery of Batalha.

The long and detailed account of this magnificent relic of norman-gothic architecture, situate in a small village of Estremadura, must be considered as one of the most finished parts of the work. Upwards of forty pages are taken up by a minute description of its various parts and dimensions; its singular ornaments; the mausoleums that fill it; a pretty circumstantial account of the kings deposited there; and the legends concerning its origin and architect; who, according to some, was an englishman in the reign of Henry IV. This article, upon the whole, is instructive and amusing; but we cannot help observing, that by far too much paper has been consumed by the annexed historical excursions, and the transcript of a ludicrous passage of de Souza, relative to a certain motto, repeatedly to be met with among the ornaments of the mausoleum of king Emanuel.

From Batalha, without stopping to enjoy the savage bull feast at Leiria, we proceed by Marinha Grande, the seat of an englishman, and a glass manufactory, to the royal monastery of Alcobaça. Mr. M.'s observations on the church, a norman-gothic structure, as well as on the situation of the convent, and the manners and characters of the friars and novices, are pertinent, picturesque, and amusing; but by far the greater part of forty pages, occupied by this article, is again sacrificed to an endless cabalistic rhapsody of Dr. Bluteau,

on

on certain mystic characters, embossed on a gold chalice, in the archives of the monastery, and to the well known history of dona Ignez de Castro, and don Pedro, her husband and avenger, of tragic memories, interred in the monastery. Not to omit any thing in his power to excite our sympathy for the unfortunate princess, Mr. M. not only informs us, that three portuguese, spanish, and french writers, exerted rival powers to celebrate her distress; but translates a scene from each: in his enumeration of english dramas, on the same subject, he seems not, however, to have been acquainted with a much later one, of a far superiour cast, from the pathetic pen of Symmons.

We are now arrived at Lisbon, and without stopping at our author's preliminaries on it's origin and progress, proceed to it's present state, by the following extract:

P. 149.—*Praça do Comercio.*

' The new square, or *Praça do Comercio*, is six hundred and fifteen feet long, by five hundred and fifty feet broad, bounded on three sides by buildings, and on one side by the Tagus. The north wing is occupied by the royal exchange and custom-house; whereof we here present a view, (Plate vi.) as taken from on board a vessel on the Tagus. A continued arcade extends the whole length of the wing, which affords communication with the several offices and stores. In the distribution of these apartments, both externally and internally, convenience and strength are all the architect appears to have had in view, and indeed very little more is necessary for any custom-house. Here are no palaces for commissioners to dwell in, nor dark cells for clerks to write in, nor cellars floating with water to hold dry goods; whoever wishes for these *improvements*, will find them, and a great deal more, in the new custom-house of Dublin.

' *Equestrian Statue of Joseph I.*

' In the centre of the above square is an equestrian statue, of bronze, of Joseph the first; a work of no inconsiderable merit, and the only one of the kind that was ever erected to any of the sovereigns of Portugal. The marquis de Pombal was the promoter of this work; intending thereby to honour his royal master, and at the same time to add a sprig of laurel to his own brow. The portrait of this minister, executed in bronze, was placed on the side of the pedestal, but it continued there no longer than he maintained his power; it was torn down immediately when he lost his master and his place, by those who a few days before paid homage to the original. We cannot but admire the indifference he evinced when informed of this circumstance: *I am glad of it*, said he, *for it was not like me.*

' When we consider the humble state of the arts in Portugal, and the difficulty of executing such a magnificent statue, we must allow that great praise is due to those who had the conducting of it. The model was made by a sculptor named Joaquim Machado de Castro, who also designed and executed the emblematic groups at the sides of the pedestal. It is from the latter every artist and amateur will judge of the merits of this sculptor, particularly the group at the north side, which must be allowed to possess great taste, delicacy, and spirit.

‘ The figure and the horse are also very noble productions; but in casts of this kind we must not look for excellence in the detail, as the delicate touches of the chisel are always lost in the foundry; if the general form and the masses will bear the test of criticism, we can expect no more, and in this respect De Castro has acquitted himself in a masterly manner.

‘ Nor has *Bartholomew de Costa*, the founder of this statue, been deficient of abilities, as far as related to his part; he cast the whole in one piece, without failing even in a single member: a circumstance which, one excepted has not, perhaps, occurred in any other work of the kind of equal magnitude, since the restoration of the art of casting equestrian statues in bronze. And yet I am not certain if this be not larger than the exception we allude to; namely, the equestrian statue of Louis the fourteenth, in the *Place de Vendome* at Paris; which, if it still exist, is twenty one french feet in height, and was cast in one piece by Balthazar Keller, a native of Zurich. But De Costa not only cast the above statue, but also conveyed it from the foundry, and raised it on the lofty pedestal on which it stands.

‘ The sculptor and founder are both natives of Portugal; the latter has been honoured and rewarded for his ingenuity, by being promoted to the rank and pay of brigadier in the service; and it is allowed by all who know him, that his talents do honour to that high rank. But Mechado de Castro, the sculptor, who has an undoubted claim to the principal merit of the work, as the designer and modeller of it, is neglected and forgotten: indeed, there is not one portuguese in a thousand who knows that he was the author of it; and though his talents entitle him to be ranked with the first artists of the age, he is scarcely known in his native country. It is true, that his majesty created him a knight on that occasion; but since then he has been left to pine in obscurity in an attic cell. A short time before I left Lisbon I was assured, from respectable authority, that he petitioned a gentleman high in office to have the floor of his wretched apartment repaired.

‘ Portugal, like Ireland, is become celebrated for the manner in which at all times she has treated her native sons of distinguished merit. We find in the annals of both nations men, whose works have enlightened succeeding generations, persecuted, despised, and the rays of science given to illumine mankind, expiring in a prison or an hospital, like an exhausted lamp. The great prince Henry was reviled and scorned by those who considered themselves as the great men of his country, as Galileo was by the italians, and looked upon as an aquatic knight errant, whilst (to speak in the language of allegory) he was enlarging the boundaries of the universe. Admiral Pacheco, who astonished the eastern world with the greatness of his actions, and at his return to Lisbon received honours adequate to a triumph, was soon after cast into prison, loaded with chains; and though he was found innocent of the alleged misdemeanors, he was left to subsist the remainder of his days upon charity. The fate of Magellen, Vernei, and Vieira are well known, and also that of Camoens, the Virgil of Portugal, who ended his days in an almshouse; and whilst he was giving the last hand to his immortal numbers,

bers, lived on the pittance begged for him by his black servant in the streets of Lisbon. We wish, for the honour of Portugal, that Machado de Castro may close its catalogue of neglected talents.*

If we except some account of Glama, a neglected artist, at Oporto, the above extract contains nearly all our author has said, or chosen to say, on the present state of painting and sculpture in Portugal. With regard to royal, public, or private collections, his book presents a blank; but as it cannot be supposed, that, notwithstanding the apathy of the portuguese nobles for ornaments of this kind, their palaces should be destitute of these pledges of opulence, ostentation, and rival vanity, the omission must be attributed to difficulty of access, want of introduction, or perhaps of leisure.

The following account of the public amusements is characteristic and interesting:

P. 158.—‘ There are two theatres here for dramatic performances; on sundays they are much crowded. I could perceive but few ladies among the audience, and these, with few exceptions, sat, not promiscuously in the company of the men, as in other theatres, but apart. The music was excellent, the dresses and scenery tolerable, the acting indifferent, or rather bad. Of late years no females are allowed to perform on the stage*; hence, the men are obliged to assume the female garb. How provoking it was to see the tender, the beautiful Ignez de Castro represented by one of these brawny artificial wenches, especially in that affecting scene where she appears, with her two infant children, at the king’s feet supplicating for mercy. The simple recital of this affecting passage, as written by Luis, is sufficient to melt an audience into tears, yet the man-mid-wife who delivered it brought forth no tears, but the tears of the poet, for the abortion of his piece. Instead of the delicate faltering accents of the fair victim, he roared,

“ ——— like the ocean when the winds

Fight with the waves ———

——— dying accents fell, as wrecking ships

After the dreadful yell, sink murmuring down,

And bubble up a noise.”

Lee’s Oedip.

‘ The other actors, particularly those who represented king Alfonso and don Pedro, were not deficient in sentiment or action. They possessed a good deal of that graceful unconstrained manner we admire in the french actors.

* The spiritual policy of Rome likewise excludes women from sharing in theatrical action; but permits the far more dangerous substitute of those emasculated striplings called *musici*, and in derision, *castrati*, a name, in this instance, tantamount to that of ‘laced mutton,’ whose more than female effeminacy, rendered still more seducing by cosmetic refinement and every art of dress, has, perhaps, more than any other cause, contributed to brand Italy with suspicions of degenerate taste. Against this, as appears from our author, the bearded, robustious, perriwig pated Ignezes of Lisbon afford an excellent, though nauseous antidote.

‘ The

* The circus for the bull-feasts is but a short distance from the above theatres. This amusement is declining very fast in the capital. The performances I witnessed here were inferior to what I saw at Leiria, but not quite so cruel. And after all, perhaps the manner of tearing the bulls with mastiffs, as in England and other parts of Europe, is not less barbarous than the manner of tormenting them in Spain and Portugal; but we are apt to see defects in our neighbours, whilst we are blind to our own, like the lamian witches, who, according to the facetious Rabelais, in foreign places had the penetration of a lynx, but at home they took out their eyes and laid them up in wooden slippers.

* As we have already given an account of a bull-feast at Leiria, it is unnecessary to add that of Lisbon, which is almost similar. A scene of a more novel nature invites our attention; that is, the manner of catching black cattle in Brazil.

* I was present at the circus when this curious spectacle was exhibited, the first of the kind, as I was told, ever represented in Lisbon. It conveyed a good idea of the manner in which the inhabitants of that fertile region catch their cattle. They kill the animals for the sake of their hides, which are brought to Portugal to be manufactured. Of the flesh I understand the brazilians make but little account; they barely take as much as is sufficient for present exigence, and leave the rest a prey to the birds and beasts of the forests.

* The circus was very crowded on this occasion: about five in the afternoon a native of Pernambuca entered the arena mounted upon a spirited horse of the arabian breed. The rider was of a copper colour, of a strong and active figure, his hair black, and his head uncovered. He wore a loose mantle, somewhat like the paludamentum of the ancient romans. The skin of a wild beast was thrown loosely over the horse instead of a saddle, from which were suspended two cords for stirrups. The whole appeared quite in character.

* As soon as the cavalier had paid his obeisance to the audience, a bull, whose natural ferocity was heightened in the stall, rushed in, and had nearly overturned him in the first onset; the fleetness of his horse, and the dexterity with which he managed the reins, only could have saved his life. The furious animal pursued him several times round the arena till he became tired, after which he stood panting in the middle of the ring.

* The horseman still continued his circular course at an easy pace, holding a long cord in his hand, with a slip-knot at the end of it: having watched a proper opportunity, he cast it over the horns of the bull, and rode twice round him; then ordering the gate to be thrown open, he made off in full speed till he came to the full length of the cord; upon which he received a check that drew him on his back, and made the horse caper on his hind feet; nevertheless he clung to him by his knees, and in this reclined posture, held the cord in both hands and the bridle in his mouth. The bull at this time was entangled by the rope, with his head drawn in between his forefeet, and incapable of motion. The brazilian dismounted, approached, and drew from beneath his mantle a short hunting spear, which,

which, with an apparent slight force, he darted into the head of the animal, in consequence of which he instantly fell down and expired.'

The name of Fielding is too dear to memory not to mention for it's sake the cemetery of the british factory, in which his remains are interred, though, as our author with regret observes, p. 172. 'without a monument, or any other obsequious mark of distinction, suitable to his great talents and virtues.

In the year 1786, the chev. de St. Mark de Meyrionet, the french consul, who then resided at Lisbon, had a small monument made for that purpose at his own expence, which remains to this day in the cloister of the franciscan convent. Why it has not been admitted into the burying-ground I could not learn; but those who have excluded it were certainly justified for more reasons than one. In the first place, as a monument, it is a very contemptible design. Secondly, the epitaph is unappropriate and unpoetical. And, thirdly, it appears to be made rather from vanity than gratitude; rather with a view to confer honour on himself and his country, than to perpetuate the memory of Henry Fielding. This appears evident from the last line of the epitaph; of which we here annex a copy.

" Erigé en 1786, à Henry Fielding mort en 1754.

*" Sous ces cyprès charniers, parmi ces os muets,
Tu cherches de Fielding les restes mémorables;
De la mort et du temps déplore les effets,
Ou déteste plutôt l'oubli de ses semblables.
Ils élèvent par-tout des marbres fastueux,
Un bloc reconnoissant ici manque à tes vœux,
Et ton pas incertain craint de fouler la cendre,
Sur laquelle tes pleurs cherchent à se répandre.*

*" Vieillard, qui détruis tout dans un profond silence,
Ne dissous point ce marbre à Fielding consacré!
Qu'aux siècles à venir il arrive sacré,
Pour l'honneur de mon nom et celui de la France!"*

We cannot allow the justness of Mr. M.'s triple censure of this monument; on it's appearance we can give no opinion, but if imagery be essential to poetry, the epitaph is superiour to the subjoined one by Mr. Smart; and what greater tribute could the author pay to the deceased, than confess, that the union of his name with that of Fielding must ensure immortality to himself, and add to the honours of his country?

The irish convent of friars furnishes our author with a compliment to their chastity, at the expence of their sobriety; and at the same time provokes him to the following curious effusion, which would have led Sterne to surmise, that the writer was not an irishman.

p. 178.—' Perhaps there is not in the code of irish proscriptions a law that more clearly manifests the wretched policy of that country, than that which relates to the exclusion of roman catholic seminaries of education. You accuse their pastors with illiterature, whilst you adopt the most cruel means of making them ignorant; and their peasantry with untractableness, whilst you deprive them of the means of civilization. But that is not all; you have deprived them

them at once of their religion, their liberty, their oak, and their harp, and left them to deplore their fate, not in the strains of their ancestors, but in the sighs of oppression. I would wish to draw a veil over these grievances, which, thank God, are diminishing every day, as the beams of more enlightened legislature begin to dawn on that long neglected isle.'

It would be superfluous, even were our limits to allow of it, to follow the author through his observations on the manners and customs of the portuguese. He himself informs us, that what he has to offer on the nobility, clergy, traders, and the labouring people, 'conveys little more than may be collected by every one in the streets, on the roads, in markets, and cottages.' The following short account of the conduct of female intrigue is, perhaps, the most curious part of the whole: after observing that churches are the chief places of amorous rendezvous, he continues,

P. 204.—'Notwithstanding the watchful eye of the duenna, the lovers contrive to exchange *billet-doux*, and that in so subtle a manner, that none can perceive it whose breast glows not with a similar flame. The little boys who attend at the altar, are often the messengers on these occasions. When one of these wingless cupids receives the letter, he makes his way through the audience till he approaches the fair one, then he throws himself on his knees, repeating his *Ave Maria Bella*, and beating his breast; after finishing his ejaculations and crossing his forehead, he falls on his face and hands, and fervently kisses the ground; in the mean time he conveys the letter under the lady's drapery and brings back another.

'At other times when the lovers are coming out of the church, their hands meet as it were by chance in the holy water font; by this means they exchange billets, and enjoy the delectable pleasure of pressing each other's fingers.'

We regret not to have it in our power to accompany the author through the rest of his tour, from which the painter of landscape, the antiquary, and architect may receive hints, instruction, and pleasure. Cintra, a mountainous country to the west of Lisbon, and Evora, a city in the province of Alentejo, furnish two very interesting articles: the former surprises by its rock, monastery, and the mysterious singularity of a moresque bath, &c.; the latter by the aqueduct of Q. Sertorius, and a well preserved temple of Diana, though disfigured by barbarous additions, and now the shambles of the city.

The execution of the plates, that represent the bath, aqueduct, and temple, reflect equal honour on the designer and engraver.

Much of this work might undoubtedly have been composed by the author, without leaving his native shore, or even his fire-side. There is not sufficient proportion between the mass of local and genuine information, and the historic, or legendary part. Without this indeed the work would have been less voluminous, but not less acceptable to the reader. Twenty-four plates of views, plans, inscriptions, antique fragments, and figures, are annexed: of these the figures are far below the excellence of the rest.

Although we have already reviewed Mr. M.'s work, yet we cannot refuse a place to this article, which has been communicated by a respectable correspondent.

ANATOMY. SURGERY.

ART. V. *The Anatomy of the Human Body. Vol. II. Containing the Anatomy of the Heart and Arteries.* By John Bell, Surgeon. Royal 8vo. 496 pa. with Plates. Price 12s. in bds. Cadell and Davies. 1798.

THE author of this work is already well known to the anatomical student, by his useful delineations and descriptions of different parts of the human system contained in a former volume, under the same title as the present*. He here proceeds on the same plan, and with equal clearness and accuracy, to give the anatomy and physiology of the heart and arteries, which probably finishes the whole of his design. In the preface he examines several theories that have been proposed and maintained at different periods, and offers many acute and pertinent observations on them. He also very properly endeavours to impress the mind of the young surgeon with the necessity and importance of having a complete knowledge of anatomy, and particularly of that part which relates to the arteries.

The errors of former opinions and doctrines being fully exposed, Mr. Bell explains the objects of his plan.

Pref. p. viii.—‘ We also may have erred in our turn: but with whatever degree of contempt we may view the doctrines of these older authors; or, however much succeeding generations may be amused with ours, still this is plain, that the most important facts in all anatomy, and the chief doctrines of the human body, must always accompany the explanation of those two great functions of the heart and lungs. Of course the constitution of the blood; the chemistry of airs; our dependence, so incessant and immediate, upon the atmosphere in which we live; the various and singular ways by which the fœtus of different creatures, or the creatures themselves (each according to its mode of life), draw their existence from the atmosphere; the various kinds of circulation by which this air is distributed through the system of each; the effects of air peculiarly upon our body; and the effects also of accidents, deformities, and diseases of those prime organs—all this wide circle of physiology belongs, in the strictest and clearest sense, to the anatomy of the heart. For one chief purpose in studying the anatomy of the human body is to understand its functions, and to compare them with those of other creatures, till we at last arrive at some distant conception of the whole, of the various structures of animals and vegetables, and of the various functions which in each of these classes support life, and through it the principle of life.

‘ There is no occasion on which this desire of knowledge, this willing admiration of the wonders of nature, is so strong as on first studying the functions of the lungs and heart; for upon the conjoined offices of the heart and lungs all perfect life seems to depend. And how universal these two functions are; how necessary to the support of the greater animals; how essential also to the constitution of the meanest insect—it shall be my business to explain.’

* See *Analyt. Rev.* vol. xviii, p. 378.

On the language of anatomists we have also many just and forcible observations. It is, indeed, high time, that the unmeaning jargon of the science was done away.

Pref. F. xii.—‘Anatomists,’ says our author, ‘have been accustomed to write, not for the public, in plain and simple language, but for each other, in an unknown tongue. By this I mean not a foreign or a dead language, but a peculiar style and phrase which no one can understand unless he be initiated; unless he have studied the science itself so intensely, that he has also learned the jargon in which it is conveyed: in short, no one but a thorough anatomist can understand it, nor can he without some labour and distress. Anatomists have buried their science under the rubbish of names; there is no difficult or hard-sounding word (which they have any claim upon) that they have not retained: they have choked their subject with useless minutiae, they have polluted their language, by transferring to it from the latin many words which, by their continual inflections in that language, were beautiful; while their unvaried, uncouth termination in ours, is barbarous in the utterance, and interrupts and puzzles the sense: “They have impressed into the service of their science a great many poor words that would get their habeas-corpus from any court in christendom.”

‘An anatomist, for example, shall describe an artery as “going to the radial edge of the second metacarpal bone; then supplying the abductor and flexor muscles; then going along the bone of the first phalanx, seated upon this second metacarpal bone,” with many other distortions, ambiguities, and little contrivances, to conceal (as one would believe) that he is describing so simple a matter as the artery of the forefinger; which the reader at last finds out either by some lucky chance, or by thinking how many metacarpal bones there are; and then reckoning them first forwards and then backwards, that he may be sure which it is that the author means; for his author may count from the little finger towards the thumb, or from the thumb towards the little finger, or he may have a fancy of leaving out the thumb, and reckoning only four. What must be the surprise of any well-educated young man, when he reads in those books which he must study, of the regions of the elbow, or thumb, or fore-finger? If an anatomist understands such things with difficulty, how distressing must it be to the student?

‘This is the scholastic jargon which has so long been the pride of anatomists and the disgrace of their science; which has given young men a dislike for the most useful of all their studies; and which it is now full time to banish from our schools. These are the authors who avoid plainness as it were meanness; who are studious of hard words as if that were the perfection of science: “it is their trade, it is their mystery, to write obscurely;” and full sorely does the student feel it.’

Mr. B. also thinks that bad arrangement has been nearly as hurtful in retarding the progress of anatomy. This is probably true, but it has not been equally mischievous in other respects; it has not misled the understanding in an equal degree.

These introductory remarks bring us to the commencement of the volume, where we have a pretty full and correct account of the mechanism of the human heart, with some useful reflections on the dis-

ference

ference of structure of the hearts of animals of different kinds. This last is a novelty which must particularly interest the young anatomist.

There has been much controversy about the *eustachian valve*, and it's anatomy is, perhaps, not yet generally well understood; we shall therefore give Mr. B.'s description of it, which we believe to be pretty accurate.

P. 30.—‘ The eustachian valve lies in the mouth of the ascending cava, just where that great vein is joined to the auricle of the heart. It looks as if formed merely by the vein entering at an acute angle, and by the inner edge of the vein, or that which is joined to the auricle, rising high, so as to do the office of a valve. The very first appearance of the valve, and its place just over the mouth of the cava, seems to point out that use which Lancisi has assigned it, viz. to support the blood of the upper cava, and prevent it gravitating upon that which is rising from the liver and lower parts of the body; and yet this, most likely, is not its use. The valve somewhat resembles a crescent, or the membrane called hymen. It occupies just that half of the cava which is nearest the auricle. Its deepest part hangs over the mouth of the cava, and is nearly half an inch in breadth, seldom more, often less, sometimes a mere line. Its two horns extend up along the sides of the auricle; the posterior horn arises from the left of the isthmus, as it is called, or edge of the oval hole; its anterior horn arises from the vena cava, where it joins the auricle. Behind the valve the remains of the foramen ovale may be seen, now shut by its thin membrane, but still very easily distinguished; for its arch-like edges are so thick, strong, and muscular, that they look like two pillars, and thence are called the *COLUMNÆ FORAMINIS OVALIS*: these two pillars were called *ISTHMUS VIESSENTII*, and by Haller are named *ANNULUS FOSSÆ OVALIS*, while the hole itself is so deep that it is named the *FOSSA OVALIS*. Before the eustachian valve lies the great opening into the ventricle; but betwixt that and the valve there is a fossa or hollow, in which lies the opening of the great coronary vein; and the valve which covers the coronary vein is a neat small slip of white and very delicate membrane, the one end of which connects itself with the fore part of the eustachian valve; so that both valves are moved and made tense at once.

‘ The eustachian valve is in general thick and fleshy; it is sometimes reticulated or net like even in the fœtus, but by no means so often as to vindicate Winslow, in adding *reticulare* to the name; it grows reticulated chiefly in the adult. The only beautiful drawing that we have of a reticular eustachian valve is in Cowper; and that was from a man of eighty years of age. Perhaps in eight or ten hearts you will not find one that is reticulated in the least degree; in old men it is reticulated, just as all the other valves of the heart are, not by any thing peculiar to the constitution of this valve; not by the pressure of the blood and continual force of the vessels, as Haller represents; but by the gradual absorption which goes on in old age, and which spares not the very bones, for even they grow thin, and in many places transparent.’

In considering the nature and properties of the blood, our author has handled the doctrines, or rather hypotheses of physiologists, with little ceremony. His examination of them is frequently acute, and shows that he has thought on the subject.

On the nature of respiration the reader will also find much useful matter brought into a clear and intelligible shape. Mr. B. has not stopped with the explanation of respiration in man, but proceeded to unfold it in other classes of animals; such as birds, amphibæ, fishes, and insects.

The peculiarities in the anatomy of the fœtus, and the purposes which they serve in it's circulation, are likewise explained with much clearness, and in a way that cannot fail to be useful to those who have a desire to become perfectly acquainted with this subject.

A few of the reflections and conclusions, which have been deduced from the curious structure of these parts, may not be unworthy of the reader's attention.

P. 184.—‘Let it be observed,’ says Mr. B., ‘that every drop of blood which comes into the system is, either by the powers of the placenta, or by communion with the mother's system, oxydated blood. One part of this blood, indeed, passes through the circulation of the liver before it reaches the heart, while another passes more directly through the ductus venosus; but both are mixed, and the blood is all of one quality when it arrives at the auricle, in order to fill the heart, and to begin its course round the body. Now, since the blood is all of one quality, nature could have no cause for dividing such blood into two portions; one to pass through the lungs, the other to pass over the body. She could have no motive for employing, as in the adult, two hearts. The design of nature plainly is, to prepare a double heart, and keep it in reserve for the circulation of the adult, but to use it as a single heart in the fœtus. And see how simply this is accomplished. The two auricles communicate so freely by the foramen ovale, that the two auricles are as one: the two ventricles both deliver their blood into one vessel, the aorta; the two ventricles are as one. The blood arrives by the cavas, fills the right auricle, and in the same moment fills, through the foramen ovale, the left auricle; so that the auricles are as one, and filled by one stroke; the two auricles act at once, and so the ventricles also are filled by one stroke; the aorta receives the blood of both ventricles at one stroke. So that, in the strictest sense of the word, the fœtus has but one single heart, the heart of the body (the function of the lungs being performed by the placenta, far from its proper system); and when the function of its own lungs begins, then nature, by the simplest of all mechanisms, divides the two hearts, that they may perform each its peculiar function. First, the flow of blood into the lungs deprives the ductus arteriosus of blood; and, secondly, this flow of blood coming round to the left auricle of the heart, restores the balance, presses down the valve of the foramen ovale, and makes the partition betwixt the auricles entire. In short, while the oval hole and ductus arteriosus are open, it is a single heart; and when they close, as they do the moment a child is born, it has the double or perfect heart.

Now the mistake which all physiologists have fallen into is this: they have not observed that no creature can live with a single heart, which has the oxydation of its blood performed by lungs. A fish lives by a single heart, because its blood is oxydated by gills, not by lungs: insects live with a single heart, as their lungs, or the branches of their lungs, are distributed like arteries over all their body: the fœtus can live with a single heart, because its blood is oxydated by the

the placenta. And that this idea may make a more determined impression, it will be good to prove, that the function of the placenta actually is equivalent with the function of the lungs; and that it is the placenta itself that produces this change upon the blood, I am the rather inclined to believe, because we see the veins and arteries of the chick spreading over the membranes of the egg, and we can observe the artery sending dark-coloured blood into these membranes, while the vein brings back florid or oxydated blood.

If, during child-labour, the umbilical cord falls down before the head of the child, at first it is not pressed but beats strongly, and the foetus is felt struggling in the womb; but when, after a few pains, the head descends into the pelvis, the cord is pressed betwixt the head and pelvis, the pulse falters, ceases; the child ceases to stir in the womb; and if not born in a few minutes is irrecoverably dead, and is black in the face like one strangled or drowned. When a child comes with its feet or other parts of the body first, the head being last delivered, is difficultly delivered; the accoucheur struggles long in bringing out the head; the umbilical cord is compressed all the while, and the child dies. The ductus arteriosus, nor the oval hole, cannot save the child, for it dies because it is deprived of the function of the placenta, which is the foetal lungs; and this is the cause why it appears like one suffocated or drowned.

When the child is born, lay it across your knee, the cord being uncut, and you will observe that the one function declines exactly as the other strengthens: that if the child do not breathe freely, the cord will continue to beat steadily, the placenta still continuing to perform the function of the lungs: that when the child begins to cry freely, the pulse of the cord and the function of the placenta ceases at once. If the child breathe freely, but yet do not cry, and you tie the cord, it is instantly forced to cry for a fuller breath; and if a rash person tie the cord prematurely, when the child neither cries nor breathes, he cuts off the function of the placenta before the function of the lungs is established, and often the child is lost: this, in the hurry and officiousness of ignorant women, happens every day. If, even after two days, the child's breathing be much interrupted by coughing, crying, or any spasmodic affection of the lungs, nature seeks again the function of the placenta, and the pulse returns into the cord so as raise it from the belly of the child. These things prove what the best physiologists have forgotten, or have not known, that the foetus has, in the function of the placenta, something equivalent with the function of the lungs.

The account of malconformations of the heart, and other causes, preventing the due oxydation of the blood, tends to throw light on the diseases of that important organ; but much is still to be done in this part of physiology.

The whole is closed with a clear and intelligible description of the arteries.

This is, on the whole, a very judicious and useful work; but, in some of the author's remarks on the opinions of other writers, there are petulance and unnecessary severity.

ART. VI. *A Treatise on chirurgical Diseases, and on the Operations required in their Treatment, from the French of Messrs. Chopart and Desault, late Professors of Surgery at the Practical Academy, and principal Surgeons to the Hôtel Dieu, Paris, in two Volumes.* By W. Turnbull, A. M.—F. M. S. and Surgeon to the Eastern-Dispensary. With an Introduction, Index, and Appendix, containing Notes and Observations, by the same. Vol. I. 8vo. 560 pages. Richardsons. 1797.

FROM those surgeons, who have enjoyed great opportunities of information, it is natural to expect correct descriptions of disease, and accurate details of practice: and in these respects those who consult the writings of Messrs. Chopart and Desault will find little to blame. We have, however, remarked some slight faults of another kind. The precision, at which they have particularly aimed, has occasionally led them to omit circumstances, that ought to have been introduced into an elementary treatise. The portion of original matter is also small, and the arrangement of the whole tediously minute. These are, however, trifling blemishes in a work, that comprehends so much useful information.

We are told by the translator, pref. p. xv, 'the evident intention of these luminous professors in writing this Treatise, which comprehends the elements and practice of modern surgery, was to instruct the pupil and the young practitioner in the art; but, on a careful perusal of the whole work, I am induced to believe, that men, however elevated in professional character or advanced in life, will still find in these pages a useful monitor. We have no instance, I believe, in history, of two men who possessed such general means of information, nor any who made such advances to the perfection of the art. They wrote little; but the surgeon, who reads that little with attention, may, perhaps, dispose of many gigantic volumes without the least injury to his professional studies.'

And it is also remarked, p. xvi, that 'the style of writing which these professors adopted was highly appropriate to the elucidation of their text. They wisely sacrificed ornament to brevity, simplicity, and perspicuity. In the translation,' says Mr. T. 'I have been sedulous in my endeavours, as far as the idioms of the two languages would permit, to preserve the same style; and, when I found any difficulty in transposing a passage, to avoid trenching on the text and meaning of my authors, I have given, as nearly as possible, a literal translation. The reader may observe, that Chopart and Desault have adopted the doctrine of humoral pathology instead of the modern one of diseased solids; many of our most intelligent pathologists seem, at present, either to have changed their sentiments or left this subject in a state of indecision.'

'The notes, on particular passages, which I intended to place under the text in each volume, I have relinquished, until the publication of the second, when they will be divided in such a manner as to bind up at the end of each volume separately, or to form a third, at the discretion of the purchaser. In pursuing my original intention, I found the publication would be considerably retarded, and the reader too frequently interrupted in the perusal. At the conclusion of each chapter that treats of a particular disease, and elucidates

elates our author's method of treatment and cure, I have given the names of the most distinguished writers who have published their opinions on the same subject. This, I conceive, will enable the pupil to recur to the first authorities without difficulty or delay.'

The best mode of treating some of the injuries of the head is probably not yet finally settled among the surgeons of our own country; and we do not find, that these professors, with all the advantages that a very extensive hospital supplied, have reduced the practice, in such cases, to that certainty which it would be highly useful to attain. Of the effects of concussion on the brain they speak in the following way; but it is as an example of the manner of the work, that we introduce them to the attention of the reader.

P. 196.—' SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION OF THE BRAIN.

' When a violent blow occasions a commotion of the brain, symptoms immediately appear, named *symptoms of concussion*, though they depend on its effect, such as dimness of sight, numbness, sudden loss of memory, faintings, paralysis, loss of voice, bilious vomitings, involuntary discharge of urine and fæces, weakness of pulse, hemorrhage from the nose, mouth, ears*, according as the concussion has produced in these parts an obstruction, or the rupture of some vessels. The symptoms enumerated do not always manifest themselves at the same time. Their number, their violence, and their duration, are in proportion to the degree of commotion and injury which the different parts of the brain have experienced. If the shock be violent, it may produce sudden death, or else the patient falls into a profound lethargy, delirium, or convulsions, and remains with the loss of all sense. When the commotion takes place on the side opposite to the part where the stroke was given, sometimes he complains of having felt, in it, from the moment of the concussion, a kind of pulsation.

' The affection of the brain, the general and primary effect of the concussion, sometimes consists only in an interruption, more or less durable, to the course of the fluids.

' EFFECTS ARISING FROM COMMOTION.

' The functions of this viscus may then be re-established: at other times, its substance is injured by depression, bruising, or other marks of contusion, rupture of some of its vessels, or of those of the pia mater; and different diseases, more or less formidable, arise in consequence of these; namely, effusions of blood, obstruction of the vessels, gangrene, inflammation, abscess, effusions of pus or water, and, finally, schirrous or carcinomatous tumours of the brain.

' SYMPTOMS OF THESE EFFECTS OR OF COMPRESSION.

' The symptoms, by which we discover any of the above effects, are named *symptoms of compression*, because the brain is really com-

* The discharge of blood, from the ears, may also depend on a fracture in the temporal bone, on the obstruction and rupture of the vessels of the auditory passage on the tympanum, &c. The hemorrhage through the mouth may likewise proceed from the eustachian tube, from the nostrils, or from those parts of the mouth which are wounded.'

pressed: these are a fixed pain on a particular part of the head, drowsiness, loss of sense, &c. They are uncertain as to their appearance, sometimes in a few hours, and at other times several days, after the blow has been inflicted; sometimes with or without symptoms of concussion, and then they either succeed them after a considerable interruption, or are confounded with them. All these symptoms again differ in proportion to their nature, and according to the disposition and seat of the injury. Compression of the brain is indicated, if drowsiness, loss of sense, &c. take place on the following day or some days after the blow has been received. The same will occur, if the patient, after having been deprived of his senses from the moment the blow was given, recovers them for a short interval, and loses them again. But, if this interruption does not exist, or escape the surgeon, the symptoms of the extravasation, and principally the automatus spontaneous motion of the patient's hand towards the same part of the head, the inclination to keep himself lying on one side, will indicate there is compression or injury in some part of the brain. Happily this circumstance is so uncommon, that, if the loss of sense and drowsiness continue from the moment of the blow, they ought to be considered as symptoms of concussion, and not of compression.'

So far as it goes in delivering the elementary principles of surgery, we have no hesitation in asserting, that the present will be found a very useful work. It possesses that clearness and precision, which are necessary to impress the mind of the student with just ideas of the nature of diseases, and the proper means of relieving them, without bewildering him with theoretical speculations and inquiries.

With respect to the translator we have but little to observe; he appears to have performed his task with sufficient accuracy; but in many instances has approached too near the idiom of the original for elegance. The preface is feeble and inflated; and we cannot see, that there was the least occasion to make any allusion to the state of *politics*. Surely Mr. T. had nothing to apprehend on that ground, in performing the humble office of translating the work of a french surgeon.

ART. VII. *Enchiridion Syphiliticum: or, Directions for the Conduct of Venereal Patients.* By A. P. Buchan, M. D. Small 8vo. 64 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Johnson. 1797.

THE directions contained in this little tract, though they have little or nothing of novelty, are in general proper and judicious. In a few instances the cautious observer will probably find a difficulty in yielding his consent to the author's reasonings. The following is of this kind.

Speaking of the action of mercury, he says, p. 32: 'I think it may be fairly concluded, that it is the oxygene, which, by some process in the animal œconomy, is separated from the mercurial preparation, and which is known to be a very active substance, that performs the cure, and not the mercury, which is an inert one. This opinion is strongly corroborated by the recently discovered mode of curing the venereal disease, by nitrous acid, by the oxygenated muriate of kali, and other substances, containing a large proportion

proportion of oxygene, attached to a base from which it is easily separated. These experiments afford, indeed, a strong proof that it is the oxygene which cures the disease; but little else appears to have, as yet, been gained by them. The effects of these preparations on the constitution, seem to be equally unpleasant as those of mercury.

'Admitting then this explanation of the action of mercury, which, in truth, is at present only an hypothesis, supported, indeed, by a considerable number of facts, and accounting, in a very plausible manner, for most of the phenomena attending the cure of the venereal disease, but requiring still farther experiments to ascertain its veracity.' There are two ways in which we may suppose the oxygene to produce its effects. It may combine with the venereal poison, and neutralize it; but it is more probable, that it acts by increasing the irritability of the system in general, to such a degree, as to enable it to overcome the action of the poison.'

Few experienced practitioners will be induced to believe, that the quantity of oxygen contained in a few grains of those mercurial preparations, which are commonly employed to cure venereal complaints, can have so powerful an effect.

ART. VIII. *Observations upon the Venereal Disease, with some Remarks on the Cure of Barrenness, Impotence, and certain Disorders incident to either Sex, from the pernicious Habits of Youth; tending to recommend a superior Mode of Treatment, free from the Danger as well as the Uncertainty of the common Method, by which slight Cases are easily as well as thoroughly eradicated; and those which had baffled the Efforts of Surgery, are permanently as well as speedily removed.* By Martin Bree, Surgeon. 8vo. 52 pages. Price 2s. Matthews. 1797.

MANY a pernicious nostrum has acquired a temporary reputation by the imposing arts of quackery: and something of the same sort is probably the design of the generality of those pamphlets, which are daily issuing from the press, with their *new and superiour modes of treatment* of particular diseases. Whether this may be the case in the present instance or not, we cannot say; but certain it is, that, with much care in perusing the pamphlet, we have not been able to discover any *superiority* in the treatment recommended by the author. But after the following observations, who can doubt the advantage of his *mode of cure*?

Pref. p. 2.—'It has been *my lot* to have had much experience in this branch of surgery, and from having *assiduously attended* to the improvements of it, I may presume to offer these Remarks as not unworthy the perusal of the junior faculty, but more particularly tending to caution the public against deleterious methods of re-establishment.'

And again, p. 17.—'All the ill consequences of the gonorrhœa may be ascribed without hesitation, to the ignorance of the medical attendant, or to the inattention of him or his patient. In the *plan of treatment* which I have *practised*, I may presume to assert, that where application has been made in the first progress of the disease, and the patient has properly confided, the termination has been in every instance favorable.'

Of this sort the reader will find most of those observations, which are to instruct the 'junior faculty.'

ART. IX. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Cause of Fever, more especially the intermitting: containing an Investigation into the Nature of Miasma, and the Manner of its Action upon the human Body.* 8vo. 72 pages. Edinburgh, Mudies. 1797.

IN this pamphlet the author endeavours to show what was formerly and is at present understood by the term miasma, and the state of body induced by it, as well as it's mode of producing intermittent fever; but his attempt is crude and unintelligible. He carefully informs us also, that the period is not far distant, when the *mystery of fever* is to be unfolded.

Pref. p. vi.—'The materials are all ready;—only there is one circumstance, which will strike the mind of a considerate person, after perusing the following work. How can it be possible, that a matter so plain could have lain hid for so many ages? Surely the explanation of it ought to have been a matter of greater difficulty! This circumstance, I own, makes me quite dissatisfied with my labour. The cause of the disease appears very simple; and the variations of it also seem to me to be caused by very simple means. So that, it will appear, admitting what I have here to offer actually is true, the discovery may be important, and yet at the same time the discoverer, I suspect, cannot be entitled to much praise.'

After much observation about the cause of fever, in which the writer seems to vibrate between old and new opinions, we come to the following very luminous summing up of the whole.

P. 52.—'Blood is accumulated about the heart and lungs, from the impurity of the air; this accumulation is the exciting or more immediate cause of all the symptoms of the cold fit. Then, from the irritation of that very important part of the vascular system, the blood is violently driven off again into circulation; and this we call the more immediate cause of all the symptoms of the hot fit.'

We might here adduce many arguments in contradiction of the author's hypothesis, did not his concluding paragraph prevent us. It is this.

P. 72.—'I have now, I believe, said all upon this subject I originally intended, and something more; but I have endeavoured to be as plain as I possibly could; and if that has led me at any time to be tedious, I have reliance enough on my readers generosity, to be persuaded they will grant me pardon; not for that only, but for all other defects and errors which they may chance to meet with. I do not think there are errors of any great importance; such, I mean, as may lead us wrong with respect to practice: those I have been particularly anxious to avoid; but that there are many deficiencies, is a circumstance too probable for me to contradict:—Some other time, however, I hope to be enabled to supply them: my present opportunity, together with their novelty and peculiar difficulty, not allowing me at present to proceed any farther. Therefore, to conclude, I may just mention, (which I believe to be the duty of every author), that whatever is found wrong, I shall recall, with no less willingness than I now have to publish it: and I am now convinced,

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on that account, no man of candour will roughly censure, because that can do no good; and it is much to be feared, it may do harm, as it may probably discourage all future attempts.'

ART. X. *An Essay concerning the outward and salutary Application of Oils on the human Body.* By the Rev. W. M. Trinder, M. D. 8vo. 31 pages. Price 1s. Longman. 1797.

IN this essay, which is probably designed to convey the information, that it's 'author will attend patients at home and abroad,' we have a full specimen of medical trash of various descriptions. With proper deference to the learned doctor's opinion, we also think it contains *sufficient proof* why the professions of physic and divinity should *not* be united. We cannot suppose, judging from the attempt before us, that the advantages of such an union would be so great or incalculable as the author imagines, however much 'the present enormous expense of cure' might be 'cut down.'

ART. XI. *The Pupil of Nature; or candid Advice to the Fair Sex, on the Subjects of Pregnancy; Childbirth; the Diseases incident to both; the fatal Effects of Ignorance and Quakery; and the most approved Means of promoting the Health, Strength, and Beauty of their Offspring.* By Martha Mears, Practitioner in Midwifery. 12mo. 173 pages. Price 3s. 6d. boards. Faulder 1797.

MRS. MEARS is a very strenuous advocate for following nature in the business of midwifery. She confidently assures us, that 'the study of nature alone can direct us to the proper treatment of women after conception,—to the surest means of preserving their health, and of promoting the vigour, growth, and beauty of their offspring.' This she farther informs us has not been laid down as a principle, or made the foundation of any system of obstetric practice, but it's truth has been admitted by the most able physicians of different ages and countries.

P. 2.—'I claim no other merit,' says she, 'but that of a well-meant endeavour to present it in a clear and interesting light. I have little more to do than to copy some pages from the volume of nature:—happy, if I could preserve the beautiful simplicity of the original!—happier still, if I could impress upon the minds of my fair countrywomen a few of its salutary maxims! I do not mean to amuse them with an idle parade of learning: I do not come dressed out in a rich wardrobe of words, to dazzle their attention: such pomp, such ornaments would ill become the humble handmaid of nature. Yet, in spite of prejudice, I hope my own sex will grant a candid hearing to one who is herself a mother;—who has united the advantages of experience with those of a regular education and a moderate share of practice;—who knows no language but that of the heart;—and whose fondest wish, in the present attempt, is to allay the fears of pregnant women, to inspire them with a just reliance on the powers of nature, and, above all, to guard them and their lovely children against the dangers of mismanagement, of rashness, of unfeeling and audacious quakery.'

He must be a hardy critic indeed, who could dispute the talents or qualifications of the writer, after reading this and the following passage.

P. 3.—“ Let it not be supposed, that, after having spent some years under the most eminent professors of midwifery, and devoted a great part of my time to the perusal of the best treatises on the subject, such as those of a Harvey, a Leake, a Smellie, and a Denman, I am now ungratefully endeavouring to bring their doctrines and their practice into disrepute. On the contrary, I would with heartfelt rapture strain my feeble voice to swell the note of public praise which they have so justly deserved. I would put their books into the hands of every midwife in the kingdom, and say to her, in the words of the poet,

“ Day and night read them :—read them night and day.”

I know not which most to admire, the ardour of their researches, the importance of their discoveries, or the zeal and ability they have displayed in combating prejudice and error. But much as I respect their talents, they themselves have taught me to feel a still higher reverence for nature. They told me, that we can grow wise only by her wisdom; and that we play the fool only when we disregard her precepts. I am sure they would join me in proclaiming to the world, that the instructions of man, opposed to her's, are but the faint glimmering of a taper compared with the radiance of the mid-day sun.

In these essays, however, Mrs. M. has given many just and proper directions, but without any novelty, except in their dress, which will perhaps be too gaudy for some of her readers.

A. R.

THEOLOGY.

ART. XII. *A Review of Mr. Wilberforce's Treatise, entitled a practical View of the prevailing religious System of professed Christians, &c. In Letters to a Lady.* By Thomas Belsham. 8vo. 277 pages. Price 4s. boards. Johnson. 1798.

As religion in all ages has been the great instrument by which governors have subdued and managed the public mind, we are unavoidably led to entertain unwelcome suspicions, when we see the avowed partisan of a political faction become the champion of a religious sect. The methodists are in this country a numerous and powerful body, and Mr. Pitt has been at no small pains to draw them to his standard. Mr. Wilberforce is the great and good ally of Mr. Pitt in the defence of the present bloody and desolating war, and the great instrument by which the minister influences that numerous sect, the methodists. Though Mr. Wilberforce's book, is professedly written on a subject above this world's concern; yet it's author has filled it with political applications and reflections, with declamations against the french, and praises of the ecclesiastical establishment of this country so odious and gross, that it has all the appearance of a state publication. A war-making, trumpet-blowing christian, is, indeed, an awful phenomenon, exhibiting the contradiction and inconsistency of

of human character, in a degree so striking, that it inspires us with "alternate laughter and tears, alternate scorn and horror." Yet such is man; and he continues to see this spectacle without emotion.

As Mr. Wilberforce has adopted the popular style and manner, Mr. Belsham has thought it sufficient to reply to him in the same way. There is scarcely, however, a page in Mr. B.'s treatise, which does not contain evidence, that the writer is a man who has *profoundly thought* on the subjects he discusses, and that his views are the most enlarged and philosophical. In contrast to the strange system of opinions defended by Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. B. has drawn the beautiful portrait of rational religion.

P. 12.—'Of rational religion, the first and fundamental principle is, that the maker of the universe is infinitely powerful, wise, and good, and that it is impossible for him to act in contradiction to his essential attributes.

'*God is love.* Infinite benevolence *alone* prompted him to action. And infinite benevolence, combined with unerring wisdom, and supported by irresistible power, will infallibly accomplish its purpose in the best possible manner. It appears in fact, that a limited quantity of evil, both natural and moral, was necessary to the production of the greatest possible good. Whence this necessity arises we know not; but that it could not be avoided in a system upon the whole the best, we are well assured; for God would not chuse evil for its own sake. Evil, therefore, is introduced and permitted, not because it is *approved*, but because it is *unavoidable*. It is in its own nature temporary and self-destructive; and in the view of the deity it is absorbed and lost in the contemplation of its ultimate beneficial effects, so that to him the whole system appears wise, beautiful, and good.

'God is the former, the father, and benefactor of the human race, whom for wise reasons, unknown to us, but perfectly consistent, no doubt, with his magnificent plan of universal order and happiness, he has been pleased to place in circumstances of frailty and danger, the natural consequence of which, in their progress through life, is the contraction of a certain degree of moral pollution, which, in the nature of things, and by the divine appointment, exposes them to a proportionate degree of misery, here or hereafter.

'But this fact by no means proves a preponderance of vice and misery in the world; otherwise we must conclude that the maker of the world, whose character we learn only from his works, is a weak or a malignant being. The truth is, that although the quantity of vice and misery actually existing is very considerable, there is, nevertheless, upon the whole, a very great preponderance of good in general, and with few, if any exceptions, in every individual in particular.

'The almost universal desire of life, and dread of dissolution, amounts to a strong presumption, that life is in general a blessing. And the disgrace universally attached to flagrant vice, proves that such vice is not common. Character is the sum total of moral and intellectual habit; and the proportion of virtuous habits, in the worst characters, exceeds that of vicious ones. But no character takes the denomination

denomination of virtuous, unless *all* the habits are on the side of virtue : whereas *one* evil habit is sufficient to stamp a character vicious.

‘ God cannot be unjust to any of his creatures. Having brought men into existence, and placed them in circumstances of imminent peril, though in the nature of things misery is necessarily connected with vice, we may certainly conclude that none of the creatures of God in *such* or in any circumstances will ever be made *eternally miserable*. Indeed it is plainly repugnant to the justice of God, that the gift of existence to any of his intelligent creatures, should be upon the whole a curse.

‘ The light of philosophy affords a few plausible arguments for the doctrine of a future life : there are some appearances physical and moral, which cannot be satisfactorily explained upon any other supposition. But since the sentient powers are suspended by death, and admit of no revival but by the revival of the man, a fact the expectation of which is entirely unsupported both by experience and analogy, the speculations of philosophy would necessarily terminate in the disbelief of a future existence.

‘ Here divine revelation offers its seasonable and welcome aid ; God has commissioned his faithful and holy servant, Jesus of Nazareth, to teach the universal resurrection of the dead, and by his own resurrection to confirm and exemplify his doctrine.

‘ Jesus hath authoritatively taught, that the wicked will be raised to suffering ; nor could it possibly be otherwise, if they are to be raised with the same system of habits and feelings with which they descended to the grave, and without which their identity would be lost. But since eternal misery for temporary crimes is inconsistent with every principle of justice, and since a resurrection from previous insensibility to indefinite misery, to be succeeded by absolute annihilation, is a harsh supposition, contrary to all analogy, and not to be admitted but upon the clearest evidence, we are naturally led to conclude, that the sufferings of the wicked will be remedial, and that they will terminate in a complete purification from moral disorder, and in their ultimate restoration to virtue and happiness. In this conclusion we seem to be justified by those passages in the apostolical writings which declare, that the blessings of the Gospel shall be far more extensive than the calamities of the fall, and that Christ shall reign till all things shall be subdued unto him.’

We have only to observe upon this system of philosophy, that it seems to admit the principle of the ancient heathens, as, indeed, all systems, we fear, must be obliged to do, that there is something “ greater than Jupiter.” *Evil* seems to have been too powerful for deity, else it would not have been admitted into the system. This, however, holds good, of *all systems of philosophy and religion* ; and we do not produce it as an objection to the system of Mr. B., but to show, that, *in this respect*, there is a perfect coincidence between the ancient and the modern, the christian and the pagan. And how could this happen otherwise ? Have not all men had the same universe to contemplate ?

In the twentieth letter, Mr. B. gives us his ideas of the *causes* of the present increase of unbelievers. We offer them respectfully to our readers.

P. 257.—‘ I shall conclude this letter with stating, briefly, what appear to me some of the principal causes of modern infidelity. 1. The first and chief, is an unwillingness to submit to the restraints of religion, and the dread of a future life, which leads men to overlook evidence, and to magnify objections. 2. The palpable absurdities of creeds generally professed by christians, which men of sense having confounded with the genuine doctrines of revelation, they have rejected the whole at once, and without enquiry. 3. Impatience, and unwillingness to persevere in the laborious task of weighing arguments, and examining objections. 4. Fashion has biassed the minds of some young persons of virtuous characters, and competent knowledge, to reject revelation, in order to avoid the imputation of singularity, and to escape the ridicule of those with whom they desire to associate. 5. Pride, that they might at an easy rate attain the character of philosophers, and of superiority to vulgar prejudice. 6. Dwelling upon difficulties only, from which the most rational system is not exempt, and by which the most candid, inquisitive, and virtuous minds are sometimes entangled.’

We have said this is a popular work. The reader must not look into it for verbal criticism, or the citation of ancient authority; but the work to which it is a reply was altogether declamation, and that declamation is here answered by sober argument, and dispassionate remark.

We have read the work with great pleasure, and think Mr. B. is entitled to the thanks of the public for this sober vindication of the divine character, and attempt to separate *true religion* from all superstition, which greatly, *almost wholly*, obstructs it's operation and influence; recommending this volume to the perusal of every serious christian, we offer to the author our very hearty acknowledgments. It would be injustice to Mr. B. not to add, that it is one of the most *candid* theological works we have ever perused.

ART. XIII. *A Guide to the Church, in several Discourses; to which are added, two Postscripts; the first, to those Members of the Church who occasionally frequent other Places of Public Worship; the second, to the Clergy: Addressed to William Wilberforce, Esq. M. P.* By the Rev. Charles Daubeny, LL. B. a Presbyter of the Church of England. 8vo. 503 pages. Price 8s. boards. Cadell and Davies. 1798.

NOTHING is more certain, than that the Clergy in this Kingdom, alarmed at the proceedings which have taken place in France against their order, have begun to assert, in very unqualified language, the necessity of abridging the liberty of the subject, and of enforcing laws thought obsolete, as well as of repealing those under the happy influence of which we have enjoyed a long tranquillity. To be convinced of this we need only attend to the writings of Horsley, Boucher, and Daubeny.

It is the part of a wise man, at all times, to guard against the operation of causes, which drive individuals into extremes: and as the proceedings in France are likely to favour schemes of tyranny in this country, as the revolution in England established the despotism

porism of Lewis XIV in France, and as the former luxury and tyranny of the french clergy laid the foundation of the present ruin of that body, we call upon all the friends of mankind, to be *now* upon their guard, and not to yield, from the terroure of the moment, to the plots of craft, or the menaces of power.

We lament with great sincerity the oppression, which has been exercised over the french priests; and we hope the clergy of England will never experience a similar fate: but the sympathy we owe to an injured and respectable body of men shall not make us forget the duty we owe to the public, to the present and to future generations. The history of popery is surely sufficient to convince us, that a conspiracy was *once* formed against the liberty of mankind, and that under the sanction of *divine authority*, and the commission of Christ; and men must be lost to every sense of interest, of duty, and religion, who are not admonished by such an experience as the world has had of clerical domination.

We are naturally led into these reflections by the evident *design* of the volume before us, which, not indeed with the indiscreet effrontery of a Horsley, but in a softer tone, would persuade us, that every man is a bad subject, a bad christian, and in a dangerous state concerning futurity, who humbles not himself to the church, believes in her infallibility, and attends exclusively upon her ordinances. This is the language with which we are approaching the nineteenth century, when the names of our Middletons, our Clarkes, our Hoadleys and our Herrings are forgotten!

This work consists of eleven discourses, and two postscripts.

The first discourse is introductory to the rest; the second is on the constitution of the christian church; the third, on the sin of schism; the fourth, on the reasons generally advanced to justify a separation from the church, and particularly of the spiritual qualifications of the minister; the fifth, on the plea of separatists, that the Gospel is not preached in the church; the sixth, on baptism, as a reason for separating from the church; the seventh, on liberty of conscience; the eighth, on toleration; the ninth, on the right of private judgment; the tenth, on the advantages attending an adherence to the church; and the eleventh is a general conclusion.

The first postscript is addressed to the members of the church who occasionally frequent other places of worship; and the second postscript is addressed to the clergy, and is filled with an account of the causes of separation from the communion of the church.

There is nothing striking or remarkable in these discourses, except the general current of the sentiments can be called so, and, we fear, *at present*, that is not remarkable.

Mr. D. begins with the assumption of what appears to us to be a fundamental error, as a divine truth; and if we be right in this opinion, all his consequences will fall with the sinking of their foundation.

He assumes, that the *church of England* is the church of Christ, established by Christ himself; and that *all the officers* of this church are *divinely ordained or appointed*. We ask the author where he finds, in the Scriptures, archbishops and bishops, the ordinances of

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confirmation and of consecration, the power of the priest to forgive sins, or to declare their forgiveness? Where has Christ appointed, that any king should be the head of his church? Where has he instituted civil penalties in excommunication? Where does Mr. D. find the connecting links of regular succession, which chain the present archbishop of Canterbury to the chair of St. Peter?

Assuming the *divinity* of his church, Mr. D. holds, that no immorality in the minister debases the divine ordinances which Christ has provided, and he dispenses; and that all the vessels of the temple are sanctified by the holiness of the temple itself.

All this would be harmless rant, and inoffensive nonsense, if there were no filake in the grass: but this divine is a *politician*; and all the farrago is intended, to subdue the minds of the ignorant, to confound inquiry, and finally to establish an unquestioned clerical authority *upon the ruins of individual and public liberty.*

Miserable dissenters! you are declared wicked and erroneous only that the *law* may silence and humble you. Schism is a damnable sin; toleration an unwarrantable indulgence; and the right of private judgment an impudent assumption of clerical prerogative. Such are the consequences of Mr. D.'s high church doctrines. Be admonished, O dissenters, for there are those, who would yet represent you as the pests of the earth.

The style of this author is neat and easy, neither rising into energy, expanding with beauty, nor sinking into vulgarity and meanness.

The reader will judge of the logic, and of the toleration of the preacher, from the following specimen.

P. 127.—‘The quaker, for instance, considers the payment of tythe to be unlawful. He, therefore, resists the demand, upon the hacknied plea of conscience. But, as it has been already observed, nothing can be a rule of conscience in religious matters but some law of God, real or supposed. The plain law of God calls upon the quaker, in common with all other members of a civilized community, to “submit himself to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake;”—and the legislature of his country has made the payment of tythe legal. Nothing then can justify an opposition to the legislature, in this case, but a firm conviction in the mind of the party, that the law enacted is in direct contradiction to some law of God, natural or revealed.

‘But the law establishing the payment of tythe does not stand in this predicament; for it must be considered rather as a law in conformity with the revealed will of God, than in contradiction to it. The private persuasion of the quaker, under the imposing plea of conscience, may therefore be considered as set up in opposition to the law both of God and man; and the admission of it by the legislature, is but establishing a precedent for further opposition to its authority.

‘For let this principle be carried to its length, and it is easy to see where it must terminate. Upon the ground that the quaker resists the law of tythe, he may take it into his head to resist any other act of the legislature; and if his resistance be admitted; if the private persuasion of the individual (for conscience it must not be

be called) is allowed to be pleaded in bar of obedience to an existing law, there will shortly be an end of all government in the world.'

Our author's idea of his church, and the danger of not strictly conforming to it in all things, will appear from the following passages.

P. 361. — 'But upon the consideration that all order in this matter proceeds from God, (the apostle having told us in reference to the priesthood, "that no man taketh this honour to himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron."—Heb. v. 4. and that, as man, Jesus Christ himself proceeded in the discharge of the christian priesthood by commission;) I would conjure them by the obedience which they owe to the head of the church, to consider; whether their disregard of an establishment calculated to promote peace and unity among christians, may not provoke God to deprive them of a blessing which they thus appear to undervalue. Whether this taking the cause, as it were into their own hand, and upon the ground of occasional defect in the ministers of the church, running into an open breach of order in contempt of a divine institution, is so likely a way to correct the evil complained of as leaving the cause in God's hand; continuing dutiful members of his church, praying for its ministers, and by conversation, writing, and example, endeavouring to re-animate them to a more spiritual discharge of their trust.

"It is safest," says an old writer, "to trust God with his own causes. If Aaron had been chosen by Israel, Moses would have sheltered him under *their* authority. Now that God did immediately appoint him, his patronage is sought, whose the election was. We may easily err in the managing of divine affairs, and so our want of success cannot want sin. God knows how to use, how to bless his own means."

"It should be remembered, then, that there is no excuse for separating from a church, where the word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered; because, as it has been above observed, the efficacy of the service and sacraments of the church, does not depend upon the private character of the officiating minister. And as there is no excuse for separation under such circumstances, so neither can there be any advantage derived from it. Piously disposed persons, may certainly be as pious in the church, as they can be out of it; and it is the design of our church, that all its members should be so. It may be a subject, therefore, well worth consideration, whether the practice so frequently adopted by serious persons, of separating from a church, which furnishes the most effectual means of promoting the true spirit of Christianity, may not be traced to the artifice of that grand deceiver; whose business it is at all times and by all means to prevent, as much as in him lies, the success of the Christian ministry. And, under this head, whether the idea which is now taken up by christians of a certain description, relative to a supposed distinction between the church of Christ and church of England, is not employed by him, by way of prelude to their more easy separation from church communion. Upon those pious persons who are on the point of being
led

led captive by such a fatal delusion, the strong language of bishop Hall will produce more effect, at the same time that it will be better received than any thing I can hope to say upon the subject. "The God of the church," says this pious bishop, "cannot abide either conventicles of separation, or pluralities of professions. This flourishing church of Great Britain (after all the spiteful calumnies of malicious men,) is one of the most conspicuous members of the catholic church upon earth; so we, in her communion, do make up one body with the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, confessors, and faithful christians of all ages and times. We succeed in their faith, we glory in their succession, we triumph in this glory. Whither go ye then, ye weak, ignorant, seduced souls, that run to seek this dove in a foreign cote? She is here, if she have any nest under heaven."—Serm. on Cant. vi. 9.

Let us be upon our guard. Strange doctrines are abroad, and the spirits of Sacheverel and Laud animate the Horsleys of our days. Terrour has come from France, and threatens England with despotism. Of different countries it may be said, as of different ages, in the language of our author, p. 384: 'From the general tendency of the human mind to extremes, the blind credulity of one age, or one country,' and *vice versa*, 'often leads to unbounded scepticism in another.'

ART. XIV. *An Apology for Human Nature.* By the late reverend and learned Charles Bulkley. *With a prefatory Address to William Wilberforce, Esq.* By John Evans, A. M. 12mo. 142 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Johnson. 1797.

To those, who have a taste for controversial divinity, this little treatise may be safely recommended. It is the production of a man, who was an eminent example of all the christian virtues, and who was at once a voluminous writer and a popular preacher. Mr. Evans, the editor of this work, found it among the papers of the deceased author, and judged it to be a very suitable answer to the arguments, if they merit the name of arguments, of Mr. Wilberforce, on the original and incurable corruption of human nature. Accordingly Mr. E. has addressed the work to Mr. Wilberforce, in order to call his attention to the reasoning it contains.

We may safely say, that Mr. Wilberforce is not to be compared, as a writer, to Mr. B. He has neither the same copious eloquence, nor the same perspicuity of reasoning. All who read the work of Mr. Wilberforce ought in justice to read this, if they mean to form a candid and impartial judgment. The editor has brought this work forward with a zeal which deserves praise; in one particular, however, we think he has mistaken the opinions of Mr. B. He states, p. 8, that Mr. B., in his Gospel Economy, strenuously contended for the *atonement of Christ*. We suspect this to be an error, if by the atonement of Christ be meant any thing like Mr. Wilberforce's atonement, which supposes imputation of sin.

Mr. B. contends, that 'Christ took away the sin of the world' by reforming the world; and we believe his notions of atonement, in the treatise referred to, go no farther than this: but if we mistake, we shall submit to correction.

When

When we perused Mr. B.'s Gospel Economy, we did not perceive any disagreement between it's author, on the doctrine of atonement, and Lindsay and Priestley; although, with respect to the person of Christ, Mr. B. was very far from being a socinian.

ART. XV. *A Short Apology for Apostacy.* By H. Mitchell, M.A. late Priest of Glasford, now Master of the English and French Academy, Glasgow. 8vo. 54 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Johnson. 1797.

As far as this pamphlet enables us to form a judgment, we are inclined to think Mr. M. a sober and conscientious man, who, under a conviction of it's impropriety, has abandoned the clerical profession. He here insists upon the right of private judgment; objects to human creeds and confessions of faith; states what were to him incomprehensible doctrines in the scottish church, to which he belonged; objects to political prayers, and priestly titles and dignities; and shows what is man's chief duty in society.

We see nothing objectionable in his reasoning, and much to praise in the motives by which he has been actuated, in ceasing to be a priest, and assuming the office of a laborious, diligent, and useful schoolmaster, a profession to be named among those most necessary for the good of society.

ART. XVI. *Reflections on the Clergy of the Established Church.* 8vo. 64 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Cadell and Davies. 1798.

AN HUMBLE apology for things as they are, with an exhortation to evangelical, or methodistical preaching. We dare say the author is a sincere well-meaning man, and, though not calculated to make much impression as a writer, may, nevertheless, preach very well.

In the promotion of human happiness and virtue, we wish him, and all men, all possible success.

ART. XVII. *Moral Reflections; suggested by a View of London, from off the Monument.* By John Evans, A.M. Small 8vo. 30 pages. Price 6d. Crosby. 1798.

ELEVATED on a lofty monument, erected to commemorate the ravages of a devouring fire, the man of sentiment will feel a variety of moral reflections, connected with the instability of mortal grandeur, spontaneously rush upon his mind. The reflections, which Mr. E. experienced on this occasion, he committed to paper, and arranged them under distinct heads: he has offered them to the public, conceiving they may be read, not unusefully, by the rising generation. They are simple, short, and pious. M. D. R.

AGRICULTURE.

ART. XVIII. *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Somerset, with Observations on the Means of it's Improvement. Drawn up in the Year 1795, for the Consideration of the Board of Agriculture, and internal Improvement.* By John Billingsley, Esq. of Ashwick-Grove,

Grove, near Shepton-Mallet; and now reprinted with considerable Additions and Amendments, accompanied with the Remarks of some respectable Gentlemen and Farmers in the County. 8vo. 320 pages. Price 6s. in boards. Bath, Crutwell; London, Dilly. 1797.

NOTWITHSTANDING the abolition of the board of trade and plantations, which was found to promote less the ostensible objects of it's attention than the private interest of it's members, the people of this country formed the most flattering expectations of national benefit, to be derived from the establishment of a board of agriculture: many of them now see, or at least fancy that they see, reason to be disappointed. It has been asked, and not merely by suspicious and discontented spirits, who discover a cloven foot in every public institution, however beneficial and important may be it's object and operation; but it has been asked, by persons of candour and respectability, and in a tone of unaffected solicitude, 'Of what use has the board of agriculture been?'—'What object of national importance has it effected, adequate to the national expense with which it is attended?' Nay, how far have it's efforts, it's feeble ineffectual efforts, been extended? Not till after an existence of four years, did the president of the board bring a bill into parliament, for the general enclosure and allotment of commons: in may, or june, 1797, the bill passed the lower house, but was rejected in the lords, *and has not been brought forwards since.* Far from intending any censure on sir John Sinclair, we acknowledge ourselves fully persuaded, that he is warm and hearty in the cause of agricultural improvement: he has given abundant and unequivocal proofs that he is so; without censuring him, we may be allowed, however, to express a concern, that his spirits were more depressed by the rejection of his bill in the house of lords, than elevated by that flattering success of it in the house of commons. The immense tracts of waste unprofitable lands, which deface this kingdom, are a subject of general, not to say universal lamentation; no one knows better the extent of these lands, and their capability of improvement, and no one, probably, laments their present unproductive state, more than the president himself, who within a very few years estimated, that there were about 22,351,000 acres of them in Great Britain. He also estimated, that, at nine shillings an acre, the annual rent would amount to 10,057,950l.; and on a supposition that the yearly produce, per acre, would be one pound seven shillings, that is to say, three rents, it would be worth to the community 30,173,850l. per annum. Astonishing to say, a bill for the enclosure and cultivation of these lands was rejected by the house of lords, in the year 1797!

Although the general enclosure of waste lands, however, is an object of national importance, which the board of agriculture has not been able to accomplish; yet it is an object, towards which it's exertions have been, and we trust will again be directed: but there are other obstacles to the improvement of agriculture, which the board has not made the slightest attempt to obviate; the two

most prominent and most formidable are TITHES AND ENTAILS, but it is not for us to enlarge any more on the subject.

In censuring the board for what it has not done, justice demands our thanks for what it has done: we are indebted to the persevering industry of its members, for an intimate acquaintance with the prevailing modes of agricultural operation in all the different counties of the kingdom; the consequence of which is, that each may profit by the errors as well as by the excellencies of the others. A keen spirit of agricultural inquiry, moreover, has been diffused through the country, and it is fair to presume, that such a spirit will not be unattended with lasting and beneficial consequences.

These preliminary observations, we flatter ourselves, will not appear irrelevant to the subject of the present article, namely, a view of the state of agriculture in Somerset, expressly drawn up for the consideration of the board.

To the volume before us is prefixed a plan for reprinting the agricultural surveys, by sir John Sinclair. The perusal of this plan, which appears sufficiently comprehensive, we presume will not be uninteresting to our readers: P. iv.

PLAN OF THE RE-PRINTED REPORTS.

Preliminary Observations.

‘CHAP. I. Geographical state and circumstances. Sect. 1. Situation and extent. 2. Divisions. 3. Climate. 4. Soil and surface. 5. Minerals. 6. Water.—Chap. II. State of property. Sect. 1. Estates and their management. 2. Tenures.—Chap. III. Buildings. Sect. 1. Houses of proprietors. 2. Farm houses and offices, and repairs. 3. Cottages.—Chap. IV. Mode of occupation. Sect. 1. Size of the farms; character of the farmers. 2. Rent, in money, in kind, in personal services. 3. Tythes. 4. Poor rates. 5. Leases. 6. Expence and profit.—Chap. V. Implements.—Chap. VI. Inclosing, fences, gates.—Chap. VII. Arable Land. Sect. 1. Tillage. 2. Fallowing. 3. Rotation of crops. 4. Crops commonly cultivated; their seed, culture, produce, &c*. 5. Crops not commonly cultivated.—Chap. VIII. Grass. Sect. 1. Natural meadows and pastures. 2. Artificial grasses.

* Where the quantity is considerable, the information respecting the crops commonly cultivated may be arranged under the following heads:

1. Preparation	{ tillage, manure. }	6. Culture whilst growing	{ hoe, weeding, feeding. }
2. Sort.		7. Harvest.	
3. Steeping.		8. Threshing.	
4. Seed (quantity sown.)		9. Produce.	
5. Time of sowing.		10. Manufacture of bread.	

grasses. 3. Hay harvest. 4. Feeding.—Chap. ix. Gardens and orchards.—Chap. x. Woods and plantations.—Chap. xi. Wastes.—Chap. xii. Improvements. Sect. 1. Draining. 2. Paring and burning. 3. Manuring. 4. Weeding. 5. Watering.—Chap. xiii. Live Stock. Sect. 1. Cattle. 2. Sheep. 3. Horses, and their use in husbandry, compared to oxen. 4. Hogs. 5. Rabbits. 6. Poultry. 7. Pigeons. 8. Bees.—Chap. xiv. Rural economy. Sect. 1. Labour, servants, labourers, hours of labour. 2. Provisions. 3. Fuel.—Chap. xv. Political economy, as connected with, or affecting agriculture. Sect. 1. Roads. 2. Canals. 3. Fairs. 4. Weekly markets. 5. Commerce. 6. Manufactures. 7. Poor. 8. Population.—Chap. xvi. Obstacles to improvement; including general observations on agricultural legislation and police. Chap. xvii. Miscellaneous observations. Sect. 1. Agricultural societies. 2. Weights and measures.—Conclusion. Means of improvement, and the measures calculated for that purpose. Appendix.

All the surveys are to be drawn up in conformity with this one model; and it will afford our readers pleasure to be informed, that, when they shall be completed, an abstract of the whole, which it is expected will not exceed two or three volumes quarto, is to be drawn up and laid before his majesty, and both houses of parliament: a general report is then to be made of the present state of the country, and the means of it's improvement are to be systematically arranged, according to the various subjects connected with agriculture. To these two or three volumes quarto we presume it is unnecessary to hint the necessity of a very copious and very accurate INDEX, in order to render them in the slightest degree useful to the practical farmer.

According to the above plan, Mr. B. has drawn up the present report; and, for the sake of perspicuity, has divided the country into three districts: the *first*, which he calls the north-east district, comprehends the tract of land included between the ports of Uphill and Kingroad, on the west, and the towns of Bath and Frome, on the east. The *second*, which is called the middle division, is that portion of land which is bounded by the Mendip-hills, on the north, Bridgewater-bay on the west, and the town of Chard on the south. The *third* division, of course, occupies the remainder; it is called the south-west. A map is also annexed, in which are represented, by different marks, the peculiarities of soil and surface, which distinguish different parts of the county.

In general the same heads will suit the following grains :

Barley. Oats. Beans. Rye. Pease. Buck-wheat.

Vetches - - Application.

Cole-seed - { Feeding, }
 { Seed. }

Turnips - { Drawn - - - - -
 { Fed - - - - -
 { Kept on grafs - - -
 { — in houses - - -

T 2

Perhaps

Perhaps our best mode of proceeding in the review of this volume will be to make a cursory analysis of its contents.

NORTH-EAST DISTRICT. The surface extremely irregular; the climate corresponding: the soil, on the western side is a deep and rich mixture of clay and sand; proceeding northward, is a large portion of land, but little susceptible of cultivation, limestone rock being within two or three inches of the surface. In half a dozen parishes, enumerated by Mr. B., not less than three thousand acres are subject to frequent inundation; four thousand acres are similarly circumstanced in a more northward direction: a plan is suggested by Mr. B. for the prevention of these floods, which plan, he conceives, if carried into execution, would advance the whole district in value ten or fifteen shillings per acre. The hills of Mendip are celebrated for their mines of lead and *lapis calaminaris*: the former are so incumbered with water, that in order to arrive at their valuable contents, it is thought necessary to cut a canal through their base, from Compton-Martin to Wookey-Hole, a distance of five miles, and a depth from the surface of about a hundred and fifty yards. Mr. B. roughly estimates the expense at 100,000*l.* the adventurers, he conceives, would amply repay themselves. This north-eastern district is abundant in coal mines.

Chap. II. State of property. Although there are several proprietors from 200*l.* to 6000*l.* per annum, the greatest number are of such as occupy from 50*l.* to 500*l.*: part is leased out on lives; part is in demesne; and part is the fee of the occupiers.

Chap. III. Buildings. The farm-houses, commodious and comfortable; but on the dairy farms, the out-houses and sheds for cattle to retire to in the winter months are extremely neglected: the cottages are on too small a scale to be consistent with decency and cleanliness, for few have more than one room above stairs. The rent of them varies from thirty to fifty shillings a year, including a small portion of garden ground. From a note, stating the inutility of giving garden ground to cottagers, unless they are annually supplied with a certain portion of manure, we suspect it is not customary for the cottagers to keep a pig or two; in some parts of the kingdom, cottagers are not only enabled to manure their own gardens, but even to sell, annually, two or three cart loads of dung, the produce of their pig, to the farmer, who furnishes them with straw, on condition of buying the dung sixpence a load cheaper; such, at least, is the case in Norfolk.

Chap. IV. Mode of occupation. A very unfavourable account is given of the general character of the farmers in this district; they are described as ungrateful to their landlords; rent is universally paid in money; no personal service is exacted. It is stated, honourably to the clergy, that, in respect to tithes, they are so moderate in their demands, as comparatively to impede but little the progress of agricultural improvement: the poor-rates are a much more alarming grievance than tithes; it appears, moreover, to be a growing grievance. On this subject we refer Mr. B., and whoever has the superintendence of the poor, to the first volume of count Rumford's *Essays**.

* See Anal. Rev. vol. xxvi, p. 11. &c.

Chap. v. *Implements.* On this subject nothing very striking occurs: 'if any particular tool be deserving of notice it is the *spade*, which is much narrower and longer than those in other counties: it's length is seldom less than eighteen inches, and it's breadth about six, the back part being gently curved to prevent adhesion to the soil.'

Chap. vi. *Enclosing fences, &c.* The fences are quick hedges with trees; and where stones are easily procured, walls of about five feet high are raised without cement; the expense of them is a shilling a yard. In this chapter Mr. B. discusses at large the general question of enclosures, with a particular view to an extensive portion of the Mendip-hills: he takes the affirmative side of the question respecting the importance of cultivating waste lands, and replies to the common objections in a satisfactory manner. On this subject our opinion has been so often, and so decidedly stated, that it is not necessary to enlarge on it at present. After this discussion, Mr. B. proceeds to a description, at considerable length, of the fences, buildings, reservoirs, lime kilns, and all other necessary appendages to such enclosures; he states their several expenses, as well as those of cultivation for the two first years. From comparing the expenses of keeping a team of oxen and a team of horses, Mr. B. makes it appear, that the superiority of the former is not so great as some sanguine men have stated: the subject, however, of their relative utility is no where in the volume discussed at length, or in a satisfactory manner.

Chap. vii. *Arable land.* In this chapter is given the rotation of crops on the clay, on the red-earth, and stone brash; as corn is but little attended to in the greater part of this district, the mode of tillage, says Mr. B., is extremely defective; the crops commonly cultivated are beans, wheat, oats, teasels, wood, and potatoes. 'The writer saw thirty-two successive crops of potatoes from the same field, and the produce as good at the latter part of the term as at the beginning: this,' says he, 'will puzzle the theorist with his *peculiar substances of nutrition.*'

Chap. viii. 'It has been already observed, that the grass land of this district greatly preponderates; and if it be not chilled by too much moisture, it may boast of almost a perpetual verdure.

'On the rich marsh land near the Bristol channel, the grazing system prevails. In the vicinity of Bristol and Bath, the scythe is in constant use; and at a greater distance nothing is scarcely seen but the milk-pail. To which ever of these purposes the land is devoted, its bounties are not niggardly dispensed. If we view them comparatively, the hay system is perhaps the most injurious to the land, and the least productive of profit. This article seldom exceeds three pounds per ton; and if we consider the risk in making, the expence of carriage, the loss of time, and above all, the declining value of the estate so occupied, few arguments can be wanted to prove the impolicy of the system. In short, I never knew a hay-selling farmer get rich.'

Of the artificial grasses, sainfoine, rye-grass, marl-grass, and white dutch clover are preferred, where the land is intended to remain

remain some years in grass; where it is intended to be broken up again in the space of a year or two, the broad-clover is esteemed preferable. It should be observed, however, that the broad-clover is a precarious crop: much wet in the winter destroys it; fatal experience upon *heavy lands* has taught the Norfolk farmer not to rely on clover *alone*; he commonly sows *white* none-such with it; the *black* is ineligible, because it usually ripens a fortnight sooner than the clover. Mr. B. recommends the use of *hay-tea* for horses and cattle; *cold* if they are well, *warm* if they are ill: this drink, he says, is extremely nutritive, and replenishes the udders of a cow with a prodigious quantity of milk. The receipt is simply to boil about a handful of hay in three gallons of water, (and so in proportion for a greater or smaller quantity) or if the water be poured boiling hot on the hay, it will answer nearly as well: by this method, he says, one truss or hundred of hay will go as far as eight or ten would otherwise do.

Chap. ix. *Gardens and orchards*. The latter abound, and let from three to six pounds per acre: the fruit produced at the northern base of Mendip hills affords a strong and palatable cider: it is noticed, that orchards sheltered from the violence of the westerly winds, and having a northern aspect, are the most regular and uniform bearers.

Chap. x. *Woods and plantations*. 'The country is but partially wooded, and on account of the demand from the collieries, the wood is but very irregularly cut: systematic plantation is but little studied.' Mr. B. justly execrates the practice of lopping off the side branches to what is called a *befom-head*.

Chap. xi. *Waste lands*. In this district are numerous commons unenclosed, although the soil of several is good and easily ploughed.

Chap. xii. *Improvements*. Although great improvements have been made by stone-draining in some places, in others they have not been sufficiently attended to: the operation seems to be cheap; main drains, two feet and a half deep and two feet wide, may be dug in a heavy strong clay soil for eighteen pence per rope (twenty feet); and the small drains for ten pence. The practice of paring and burning is almost relinquished; we have ourselves tried it on a strong clay soil without any good effect. The mode in which marl operates as a manure is *adhuc sub judice*; it is yet the subject of dispute: how far Mr. B. has thrown light on the subject, our reader will judge from the following paragraph:

p. 134.—'The generation of moss manifests the declining effects of this manure. It is considered as an indication for breaking up the old sward, which is generally done. This develops a very curious and singular phenomenon; namely, the marl spread on the surface forty or fifty years before, has only obtained the depth of between five and six inches, where it forms a regular, uniform, consolidated bed. Even at this depth its effects, although not exhausted, are nevertheless so much impaired as to demand its renewal. Will not this fact tend, in some degree, to elucidate its *modus operandi*?

'While it remains within two or three inches of the surface, which is the case in some instances perhaps for twenty years or more,

more, it may be supposed to form a kind of pan or reservoir for the nutritious and fructifying influences deposited by the atmosphere; which being there retained, and in contact with the roots of the grasses, form such combinations in the laboratory of nature as are best adapted to give vigour and permanence to the elementary principles of vegetation. These are evidently weakened when the marl, by its descent, gets below the roots of the grasses, and thereby deprives them of the matrix, which seems to preserve the means of their nutrition and support. This may account for the production and increase of moss on the surface, and the necessity of marling afresh, not only to impede its propagation, but to destroy it.

In our estimation this reasoning is not very profound: we know, that, combined with certain soils, marl as a manure operates favourably to vegetation: all that Mr. B. asserts, and nobody will dispute his assertion, seems to be this: that when marl is so deep under the surface of the earth that it's sphere of operation does not extend to the roots of the grasses, these receive none of it's nutritious influence: he does not appear to have elucidated, in the slightest degree, the *modus operandi* of the manure itself.

Chap. XIII. *Live stock.* The cows are mostly of the short-horned breed: 'and though the fine long-horned cows of North Wiltshire are strongly recommended by some, yet the general run of dairy-men are attached to their own breed.' The sheep are large, and when well fattened will run from thirty to forty pounds a quarter: more would be kept in this district but for a disposition in the land to generate the *foot-rot*; the *scab* is also a troublesome disorder: Mr. B. has given some receipts for the cure of each. Few horses are bred in this district; the farmers are supplied by dealers who attend the north-country fairs; farriery is in the hands of ignorant and conceited practitioners. Hogs are usually bought at Bristol market, of welchmen or itinerant drovers: Mr. B. warmly recommends a practice, which he himself has adopted, of folding hogs on pasture land, and feeding them with raw potatoes.

Chap. XIV. *Rural economy.* Rate of wages about nine shillings a week with dinner and beer, during hay and corn harvest; at other parts of the year about seven shillings, with small beer or cider. In this chapter the subject of large farms is agitated; we quite agree with our author, as to their general superiority over small ones. Mr. B. endeavours to elicit the latent causes of the scarcity of bread corn, and the dearness of all other grain, which were felt in the years 1795 and 1796. He sums up his arguments thus: 'it arose from three years out of five of deficient produce: the almost total failure of pulse in 1794, and the destructive ravages of war, which has not only lessened importation, but has inevitably produced in our fleets and armies, a wasteful expenditure of this necessary article of human food.' We are disposed to agree with him, that the consolidations of farms, the combination of jobbers, the consumption of distilleries, &c. had little or no effect in the production of that alarming scarcity.

Chap. XV. *Political economy as connected with agriculture.* The parochial roads are ill managed and bad: the public ones pretty good. At present there are but three canals; another was at-

tempted, which in conjunction with the grand western canal would have delivered coal to the inhabitants of the county of Devon at nearly half the present price; the attempt, however, 'was frustrated by a certain nobleman, merely because he conceived that he had not been treated by the ostensible promoters of it with becoming deference and respect.' The principal manufactories in this district are those of woollen cloth and knit worsted stockings; the former however is rapidly declining.

MIDDLE DISTRICT. Chap. i. *Geographical state and circumstances.* The climate of this district is for the most part temperate; the fen lands have within a few years undergone astonishing improvements: within twenty years, 17,400 acres in Brent-marsh have been drained and enclosed under parliamentary authority, before which time, 10,000 sheep are known to have been rotten in one year in the parish of Mark! A considerable quantity of land is yet subject to inundation, and Mr. B. has annexed a plan for draining the two turf-bogs near the rivers Brue and Axe: a rough estimate is added of the probable expense and profit. The soil of these moors is either a strong, dry, and fertile clay; a red earth, varying in depth from one foot to six feet, covering the black moory earth of the heath; black moory earth on the surface with a *substratum* of clay; or lastly turf-bog. Some of the clay land is so prolific as to produce ten or twelve successive crops of wheat without an intervening fallow or fallow crop: 'I was shown,' says Mr. B., 'a field in the parish of Mark, which had growing in it the 19th crop of wheat, and I verily think the produce was not less than fifty Winchester bushels an acre. No manure had been put on it during the whole time, save the contents arising from cleansing the ditches: the average produce per year for the whole eighteen years was estimated to exceed thirty-five bushels per acre; notwithstanding which, the plough lies idle, and nineteen parts of twenty remain in grass! Mr. B. says, that the farmers here are shamefully inattentive to their breed of cattle, and very slovenly hay-makers: it is no unusual thing to see cocks of about a load remain in the field two months after they are made; and before the country was drained, they were frequently carried away with a flood.'

Chap. iii. *Buildings.* The old farm houses are ill-constructed, and improperly situate, but the new ones are much improved in point of uniformity, regularity, and convenience.

Chap. iv. *Mode of occupation.* From the dismemberment of ancient manors, half this country is occupied by the owners: rent is paid in money, and no personal service is required. In the eastern part of this district, estates are principally holden on mere *verbal* engagements, and scarce an instance, says Mr. B., can be produced, of a breach of faith on the part of the landlord, or suspicion on the part of the tenant!

Chap. vii. *Arable land.* Flax and hemp are cultivated in great abundance, as are turnips. Wheat, barley, oats, beans, and pease, are in general culture, but there is nothing in the mode of management worthy of notice. It is observed, that the crops of large farmers are proportionably greater than those of small, from the circumstance

circumstance of their sowing more turnips and vetches, and keeping a larger folding stock. Fallowing is not practised.

Chap. ix. *Gardens and orchards.* Much land in this district is well calculated for orchards, the generality of which are let for four or five pounds an acre: a single tree is mentioned as having frequently produced four hogheads of cider, 'and the tenant told me,' says our author, 'that he would give for it a guinea per year for a term of twenty-one years; the tree is not more than forty years old.' Mr. B. has given at length, the 'cider-making process.'

Chap. x. *Woods and plantations.* These, it seems, are in general much neglected, although the profits are very considerable of such as are well managed.

Chap. xi. *Wastes.* 'The largest uninclosed (*upland*) common in this district, is the forest of *Neroche*, containing about eight or nine hundred acres.' For want of draining, this common rots the sheep; of marshy lands there are about 8000 acres.

Chap. xiii. *Live stock.* From an estimate which Mr. B. makes of profit and expense, it appears, that grazing, though a comfortable, does not afford an exorbitant interest. It is not unusual for graziers to give their prime oxen a second summer's grafs; Mr. B. conjectures, that they may answer better the second year than the first, since it is well known, that an animal nearly fat will consume much less food than a lean one. This is true, but it may fairly be doubted whether any given quantity of food eaten by a fat animal will add equally to it's weight with the same quantity of food eaten by a poor one; it ought, however, to add more, or the grazier will lose by his experiment: for since the value of the former is greater than that of the latter, it should return an interest proportionably greater. Sheep are not considered so profitable a stock as oxen: heifers by many farmers more so. Mr. B. has given an estimate of the produce and expense of a dairy, by which it appears, that the dairy occupation is more profitable than the grazing.

Chap. xiv. *Rural economy.* Wages are low, notwithstanding there are very considerable manufactories; the populousness of the country will in a great measure account for it.

Chap. xv. *Political economy, as affecting agriculture.* Turnpike roads are exceedingly good: a navigable canal is now cutting through the eastern part of this district. Manufactures are of various sorts.

NORTH-WEST DISTRICT. *Geographical state and circumstances.* This district has pretty equal proportions of vale and mountain: the air is peculiarly serene, and the soil, here a loam and there a clay, is rich and productive. A great part of the *watered meadows* lie on steep declivities: the water passes rapidly over them, is never stagnant, and a rush is scarcely to be seen.

Chap. ii. *State of property.* p. 268. 'The major part of the five hundreds of Taunton-Dean, consists of customary lands of inheritance, held under the lord bishop of Winchester, paying an annual rent. These customary lands pass by surrender, paying to the lord fines and heriots on alienations. There are also many singular customs

toms within the manor, difficult to be understood even by the tenants themselves. The descent is called that of *Borough-English*, with some variations. The wife is heir to her husband; and it is no uncommon thing for a widow, on the death of her husband, having children by him, to marry again, and carry her estate into her second family, to the disinheritation of her first.

Chap. iii. *Mode of occupation.* The farms in this division are rather less than those in the last; the husbandry much the same, but more land is in tillage.

Chap. v. *Enclosing, &c.* The hedges consist of three rows of beech, planted on banks between four and five feet wide at the top, and six or seven feet high. There is no ditch.

Chap. vi. *Arable land.* The drill husbandry has been found to answer better on light poor soils than on rich strong loams: Mr. B. himself has been uniformly unsuccessful in his trials of it. He is an advocate, however, for drilling pease, beans, vetches, turnips, potatoes, &c., but with respect to corn in general, and particularly barley and oats, he hesitates in assenting to the superiority of the drill. The reasons which he has alleged are replied to in a note by Mr. Anderson, who, after an experience of twenty years, is a warm advocate for the drill husbandry. On this subject, our agricultural readers must have so frequently heard the arguments *pro* and *con*, that it is unnecessary for us to repeat them. The harvest crops in this part of the country are usually carried on horses backs: a large wooden crook on each side of the saddle is laden with the sheaves, and when discharged, the horse is ridden back to be reladen: this mode of conveyance is found to be very expeditious.

Chap. vii. *Orchards.* From the orchards in this part of the country cider is made in very high perfection. Mr. B. has related the prevailing process.

Chap. viii. *Woods.* Not abundant; coppices are under no good system of management.

Chap. ix. *Wastes.* The forest of Exmoor contains about 19,900 acres! About 22,000 sheep and 400 horses are usually summered here, but the race is so small, and their value so trifling, that little profit accrues to the owner. Veins of copper and iron, limestone and slate have been discovered in this forest; large tracts of it moreover are susceptible of tillage, and it is estimated, that what now is a barren waste might, by men of wealth, spirit, and understanding, be made worth from five to twenty shillings an acre.

Chap. xi. *Live stock.* The oxen of this country are large and well made animals: they are yoked at three years old, and worked till five or six, when they are sold to the graziers. Sheep are of two sorts; the first are native, and remarkable for very heavy fleeces; the weight of them varies from seven to twelve pounds. The second sort are kept for two or three years on the forest of Exmoor or adjoining hills, merely for the annual profits of their fleeces. The method of manuring land by *folding* is almost unknown here!

Chap. xii. *Rural economy.* Contract labour is gaining ground daily. Provision is moderate. Coal is brought from Wales, the quality

quality bad, and the price high. Wood is annually growing scarcer and dearer.

Chap. XIII. *Political economy.* 'Of late years'—to the utter disgrace of the district be it spoken—the warmth of party at the elections of their representatives in parliament has run so high, that it has not subsided from one election to another; by which means manufactories declined, and have been removed to Wellington and other places.' The salmon and *herring fishery* of Porlock, Minehead, and Watchet, has been carried on, of late years, to a considerable extent.

To this agricultural survey of the county of Somerset succeeds a recapitulation of the hints for improvement, which Mr. B. had suggested in the course of the work, and to which he has added some useful remarks.

The volume concludes with a concise description of Mr. Weldon's hydrostatic or caisson-lock, which, by this time probably, is built on the Somerset coal-canal near Coomb-Hay, about three miles from Bath. Its object is to remove the following impediments, which arise in the progress of canals: first, from a want of water to supply locks in dry seasons and elevated situations; 2dly, in crossing vallies by expensive aqueducts; 3dly, tunnelling through hills and high grounds; and 4thly, the great delay which is occasioned by passing many locks where the unevenness of the country renders it unfavourable to canals. Without the assistance of a plate we cannot convey to our readers any adequate idea of the *modus operandi* of this ingenious machine. Mr. Weldon purposes to lay an account of it before the public, himself.

After so full an analysis of the volume before us, it is unnecessary to lengthen this article by any general observations. We feel, that Mr. B. is entitled to great merit for the industry and ability, which he has exerted in performing the task which he imposed on himself; and the board of agriculture, in selecting gentlemen of such talent and observation to survey the kingdom, prepares a vast mass of information, which, by a judicious abstract, a copious index, and *volumes of an easy price*, may be useful to the public, and of course creditable to itself.

E. D.

PHILOSOPHY.

ART. XIX. *An Examination of the leading Principle of the new System of Morals, as that Principle is stated and applied in Mr. Godwin's Enquiry concerning Political Justice, in a Letter to a Friend.* 8vo. 60 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Longman. 1797.

THE merit of Mr. Godwin, in his work on Political Justice, consists, not in his having discovered any new principle of morals, but in having, from a principle long acknowledged and defended, deduced many important consequences, with great accuracy and much boldness. The author of the work before us acknowledges, that, if Mr. Godwin's leading principle be admitted, all his consequences must be admitted with it; but he undertakes to refute the principle itself. This principle, on which the whole of the Political Justice is

is built, is, that it is the duty of man, in all things, to be influenced by a regard to the *general good*; that this object, the general good, is worthy of supreme regard; and that to it all domestic and local relations ought to be sacrificed, as of inferior and trifling importance. Be the life of your parent or child in danger, and that of another person wholly unconnected with you, who possesses superior mental powers, and more cultivated benevolence than your child or parent, you are to save this person, and suffer your relation to perish.—Against this principle, no less absurd than pernicious, our author here enters a powerful protest. He contends, that man is a creature of sympathy; that from his sympathy arise originally all his moral feelings; that he cannot sympathise with those unknown by him; that he cannot sympathise with the *general good*; and that, therefore, a system of local relations is the only system adapted to human nature. He further contends, that, were not man necessarily instructed, moved, and actuated by his sympathy, still the *general good* could never be to him a *motive of action*, for of that general good he is *necessarily and absolutely ignorant*. That it is contrary to all experience, to suppose that man is influenced at any time by a regard to the ultimate end of his conduct; for that although the *end* of eating be to preserve life, and the *end* of the sexual intercourse be to produce life, yet, in cases so simple as these, no man makes the end his motive of action. He contends, therefore, that as virtue takes its character from the *motive*, not the *tendency* of the action, and as *the general good* can never be the *motive* of action, so virtue ought not to be defined “that course of conduct which tends to promote the general good,” but should be defined, that course of conduct of which the motive is benevolence, or the good of individuals.

We confess our union with the author of the pamphlet before us, and our decided opposition to Mr. Godwin's theory, which may indeed be adapted to the supreme Being, whose knowledge is perfect, whose sphere of exertion is unlimited, and who is superior to all the sympathies by which man is instructed and guided, but which appears to us entirely inconsistent with the condition of human nature, and founded upon a complete ignorance of man.

It is a system, moreover, of the most alarming tendency: for what is its language? You are arrived at a period of revolution and change; man is capable of becoming perfect and happy; endeavour to forward that perfection and happiness: it is true, that your father, mother, brothers, and sisters, your benefactors and friends must perish, for they oppose themselves to this sublime regeneration of the human kind; but what then? These relations are nothing when opposed to *the general good*, and your virtue will best be displayed, by offering these relations as sacrifices on the high altar of universal justice. We charge not these consequences upon Mr. Godwin, but we charge his system with them, and we do it without fear. We wish to call the minds of our countrymen to the study of this system, which has found many advocates, and we recommend to their serious attention the pamphlet before us, from which we now present them with an extract equally, in our opinion, eloquent and true.

P. 32.—‘Virtue, then, we will say, consists in utility; and aspiring to be virtuous, to my means, I am bound to be as useful as I can,—I am bound to produce all the good in my power. This injunction has a very imposing air undoubtedly, but where does it leave us? As husband, father of a family, friend, member of society, in these, or in any station or condition of life, what sort of direction does it afford me? To the perspicacious and prescient eye which could survey at a glance all the modes of beneficence in which it is possible to act, and pursue the result of such actions to the remotest ramifications of their consequences, the path of duty under such a precept might be visible, I admit; but what track could be discovered in this boundless expanse by the confined views and dim foresight of man? I must spend all my life, according to this scheme, in speculation, before I could safely take the first step. I must consume years in determining, according to the multiplicity and complication of existing circumstances, *that* to be right, which a change in those circumstances, the moment after, might render totally wrong. The rule is a most incomparable rule, but it is impossible to put it into practice. This “palpable obscure” this “reign of chaos and old night” thus spread over the whole plan and conduct of life, is however not without its use. It leaves us entirely open to the direction of any projector. All is darkness; and he is at liberty to guide us by any lights he can furnish.

‘I am bound to produce all the good in my power—but by what incitements is it proposed to stimulate me in this arduous duty? The general good, I will allow, is an object highly desirable; and though stripped of all that can impart a lively interest to it, of time and place, and person and circumstance, there is no man, I wish to believe, so strangely malevolent, who would not give it, when fairly brought before him in a moment of ease and reflection, his heartiest good wishes, or even concur in any reasonable plan to promote it. All this I readily admit: but to convert this remote regard into the primary principle of all action, is quite a different affair. Such a scheme must necessarily be delusive, because it controverts, at its outset, the strongest instincts of our nature; because it is at war with what neither mortal strength nor subtlety can abolish or supplant; and grounds its success on the extinction of powers which fanaticism may counteract, indeed, but never can extirpate. We cannot change our nature. By a law of that nature we proceed from personal affection to general regard: from the love of offspring, of kindred, of neighbours, and acquaintance, to that of our district, our community, our country, and our kind. In this order our affections are diffused; and in this order, by the constitution of our being, they weaken as they spread.

“God loves from whole to parts: but human soul
Must rise from individual to the whole.
Self love but serves the virtuous mind to wake,
As the small pebble stirs the peaceful lake;
The centre moved, a circle strait succeeds,
Another still, and still another spreads;
Friend, parent, neighbour, first it will embrace;
His country next; and next all human race.”

We offer one observation to the consideration of this writer. He has not, in our opinion, stated with sufficient perspicuity, or refuted with sufficient precision, the maxim, that we are obliged to do all the good we can. We think, in general, this loose maxim may be admitted: but we contend, that we can do *the most good* by acting according to the system of local relation; and we contend also, that we can do no good, by acting upon any other system; for to no other system are our nature, our knowledge, our power, and our means adapted.

We hope the time is come, when Mr. G.'s system will meet an able and candid refutation; and we do not despair of seeing the author of this pamphlet, of whom we are wholly ignorant, again take up his pen, and produce a *complete refutation* of this strange body of ethics, and an accurate outline of the true moral system; a system drawn from the nature and circumstances of man, and not applicable to a world of intellectual beings, of whom we know nothing, and with whom we are not likely to become soon acquainted.

POETRY. THE DRAMA.

ART. XX. *Hobby Horses, a Poetic Allegory, in Five Parts:* By Jenkin Jones. 12mo. 144 pages. Price 5s. fine paper; 3s. common. Sewed. Allen.

“DID not *Dr. Kunaſtrokius*, that great man, at his leisure hours, take the greatest delight imaginable in combing of asses' tails, and plucking the dead hairs out with his teeth, though he had tweezers always in his pocket? Nay, if you come to that, sir, have not the wisest of men, in all ages, not excepting *Solomon* himself,—have they not had their HOBBY HORSES; their running-horses; their coins, and their cockle-shells; their drums and their trumpets; their fiddles, their pallets; their maggots and their butter-flies? and so long as a man rides his HOBBY HORSE peaceably and quietly along the king's highway, and neither compels you or me to get up behind him, pray, sir, what have either you or I to do with it?” In sooth, Yorick, we have nothing to do with it, or has any body else, provided, moreover, the hobby does not incommode his majesty's liege subjects, by kicking, or splashing them as he goes along. These peaceable riders, however, if not objects of satire, are many of them, from the oddity of their steed, or the awkwardness of their seat, no bad subjects for ridicule.

We are pleased in observing, that the author of the present performance knows when to smile, and when to frown: far from displaying the slightest propensity to indulge a rancorous and malignant spirit, he often pleads the cause of humanity, and always with earnestness and ardour; the follies of the day are ridiculed with a good-humoured and easy banter, while vice only is lashed with the scorpion scourge of satire. The following will afford our readers an interesting specimen of the poet's style, and no unfavourable opinion of his heart:

HOBBY HORSES. PART II. P. 29.

' The lawless despot, red with eastern crimes,
Th' aspiring monster of *ambition* climbs:
War in his train, contagion in his breath,
He hunts for plunder in the fields of death.
From Europe first this fiendlike fury sprung,
(When war's curs'd serpent nature's bosom stung)
Invading strength weak innocence assail'd,
And lust of gold o'er ev'ry right prevail'd:
Ev'n those who once an honest commerce fought,
The dire contagion of ambition caught,
Grim war's destructive thunders madly hurl'd,
And spread wide desolation thro' the world.

' What shall we say to that atrocious guilt,
Which riots in the blood ambition spilt!
What! to that wretch who chews cool murder's cud,
Whose pen's a poignard, and whose ink is blood!
Who with ingenious guilt compiles his notes,
And with one sentence cuts ten thousand throats?
Who shall the malice of these fiends restrain?
Tears, imprecations, threats, and prayers, are vain!

' But let us hope that happier times are near;
War soon shall vanish, peace shall all endear,
To ev'ry realm direct her gentle dove,
And join all nations in a band of love*.
Lost are the shrinking views of narrow minds:
Expanding sense a liberal focus finds;
Th' infatuate reign of bigotry is o'er,
And superstition sways the world no more.

' O hail, thou blest anticipated day!
Gild my young muse with one enlightened ray:
So shall thy light each intellect refine,
Burn in each thought, and glow thro' ev'ry line.
Hail, happy dawn! thy glorious sun shall rise,
Beam on the dreary night of polar skies;
Chase the thick mists of ignorance away,
And on the darkest mind emit full day.
At thy approach injustice shall retreat,
Astraea shall resume her long lost seat,
The reign of red-arm'd tyranny be past,
Oppression cease, and discord breath her last;
No more shall men with hate the brethren greet;
No more the slave shall kiss his master's feet;

* Many, I fear, there are, who will think this prophecy deduced from the oracles of that modern sybil, Mr. Brothers.—Others there are who will perhaps conceive, that this hypothesis, with it's attendant apostrophe, would have been more judiciously arranged under the subsequent article of *illusion*.*

No more with speechless patience couching bear
The chains that gall him, and the whips that tear;
No more the wretch, despondent in his grief,
Crawl to a vault, and die without relief.

‘ O God of boundless mercy! hear this pray’r!
Open our hearts, a brother’s pains to share;
Let not in selfish cares our wishes close,
But give us souls to feel for others’ woes!
So never more mine eyes this sight shall greet,
A man left starving in the public street!
Was this a time to want for food and clothes,
When on his faded cheek the big tear froze?
Yet I beheld him stript of his last rags,
Stretch’d on a cold, damp vault’s uncover’d flags,
No generous friend, no kind supporter nigh,
“ Despis’d, neglected, left alone to die.”

‘ Ah! who can tell what pow’rs that mind possess’d,
What flames of lambent genius warm’d his breast!
Perhaps a man in ev’ry gift profuse,
“ Of noble sentiments, exalted views,
Of curious observation, deep research;
One whose pure morals might have propp’d the church:
One on the music of whose fluent tongue
Convincing truth and soft persuasion hung;
One whose fine sense of delicacy taught
Graces beyond the reach of Stanhope’s thought;

“ This is a scene which I absolutely witnessed but a few weeks back. Nor has it borrowed any circumstance or colour from poetic fictions. Under the door-steps, which lead into the Circus coffee-house, St. George’s Fields, there is a small vaulted recess, to which I was attracted by the calls of two children, who told me that a man was dying. I went down to the vault, where I beheld a poor wretch lying in the agonies of death, stretched on the bare stones, without so much as even a bundle of straw beneath him; he had on him no covering whatever; while his whole clothing consisted only in the ancles of two worsted stockings, and an old ragged waistcoat which, being destitute of buttons, was of no use, and left his body naked.—In this situation I beheld a *human being*!!!—I have not exaggerated one single circumstance of his distress; indeed it is not in my power to do so, for his wretchedness was too great to admit of any augmentation.—He was at last removed (in all appearance dead) to an adjacent workhouse. I have been unable to obtain any certain information concerning this unhappy creature; but I am flattered in thinking, that I may, perhaps, hereby be able to promote the institution of enquiries that may tend to explain how, in this christian country, it could ever happen, that any human creature was allowed to sink beneath the weight of such accumulated miseries.”

One who could yield to laws their best support,
 Have polish'd states, and civiliz'd a court *."
 Was there a wretch so lost to honest worth,
 To deem such sights a spectacle of mirth?
 There was!—one monster, dead to all remorse,
 Smil'd o'er the scene, and mock'd the naked corse!
 I heard the brute recite his horrid joke;
 I heard him, and I thought a demon spoke.
 What time a sailor stood, with downcast look,
 His manly limbs a fine emotion shook;
 His eyes no more their ardent splendor kept,
 But from two sacred streams profusely wept.—
 O weep no more! for man shall learn to feel,
 No more in vain the suppliant wretch shall kneel;
 No more shall man, with worthless fears perplex'd,
 Hide the fine agonies which rend his breast;
 No more with blushes meet the proud man's jeer,
 Strive with a sigh, and struggle with a tear.
 Pride shall suppress the soul-sick sigh, no more,
 The voice shall falter, and the eye shall pour,
 The heart responsive vibrate to the soul,
 Bleed unconfin'd, and throb without control.
 O blest exalted change, to ev'ry land
 Thy consecrated influence expand,
 To ev'ry race thy conqu'ring force impart,
 Dilate the soul, and elevate the heart.

* My readers will discover that in this passage I have vainly tried to paraphrase that fine sketch of character which the venerable Johnson gives us, in his life of Savage.—A piece of biography, composed with that enthusiastic friendly ardor, that glowing energy of sensibility; that manly dignity of sentiment and classic elegance of language, which has long secured it universal admiration, and left it without parallel.

I shall here subjoin that lucid, well condensed and finely modulated paragraph, to which I have alluded.

And indeed it will be necessary—as those who never saw the original, could form no just idea of its beauty, from the imperfect effort of so humble a translation. After relating the necessitous and adventitious manner in which Savage had been long accustomed to exist, he turns to these reflections.

“In this manner were passed those days and those nights which nature had enabled him to have employed in elevated speculations, useful studies, or pleasing conversation.

“On a bulk, in a cellar, or in a glass-house, among thieves and beggars was to be found the author of the *Wanderer*, the man of exalted sentiments, extensive views, and curious observations; the man whose remarks on life might have assisted the statesman, whose idea of virtue might have enlightened the moralist, whose eloquence might have influenced senates, and whose delicacy might have polished courts.”

Life of Savage.

ART. XXI. *Poetry Miscellaneous and Dramatic.* By an Artist.
8vo. 144 pages. Price 3s. 6d. Edinburgh, Hill; London,
Cadell and Davis. 1797.

A VOLUME of poetry written by an artist is sufficient to raise our expectation; for we have neither forgotten the exclamation of Cicero, "*quam multa vident pictores in umbris et in eminentia quæ nos non videmus*:" nor has the simile escaped us of the celebrated and sagacious "knight of the woeful countenance," don Quixote de la Mancha: "Poetry, good sir," quoth the knight, "I take to be like a tender virgin, very young and extremely beautiful, whom divers other virgins, namely all the other sciences,"—and why not arts?—"make it their business to enrich, polish, and adorn; and to her it belongs to make use of them all, and on her part to give lustre to them all."

We cannot but acknowledge our expectation to have been somewhat disappointed in the present performance; 'Esk Water,' however, a descriptive poem, is not destitute of merit: the author, at Edinburgh, is awakened by Fancy, and invited to attend her to Roslin, on the banks of the Esk; the ruins of Roslin Castle invite reflection on the transitory nature of human greatness: a description of Hawthornden, and of its poet, Drummond, succeeds. After sketching the rocks of Dryden, the poet makes the following apostrophe to Salvator Rosa and Runciman:

P. 15. 'Scenes grand as these, O ROSA! didst thou hail,
And, 'neath the grandeur, did thy pencil fail.
Shapely the rock that forms thy mossy grot,
And light the foliage of the lowly spot.
Fancy delights thy rugged steps to trace,
But grandeur asks to range in larger space.
For, vain the pencil to impart the dread,
Where the huge rock o'erhangs the giddy head.
'The bold perspective, on the canvas trac'd,
Offends the eye, where nature aw'd the breast.

' Shall ROSA's shade be known o'er ESK to fly,
And RUNC'MAN's genius pass unheeded by?
RUNC'MAN, who fought where nature's grandeur lay,
Whose eye pursued, where fancy led the way.
Whose soul was ardent, and whose great design
To fancy's fav'rites gave the glow divine.
Had but his hand been faithful to his fire,
To latest times had OSSIAN struck the lyre!
CLERK's storied hall had dearer been to fame;
Though ESK still glories in her painter's name!

' O happy theme! for him on canvas bold,
Who dares to trace what deathless OSSIAN told!
Where loveliness, like light, MALVINA drest,
Where AGANDECCA heav'd the snowy breast.
Where FINGAL, 'midst his sons, a warlike train,
Urges to glory on th' ensanguin'd plain.
O mournful theme! the dreadful conflict done,
To trace the hero sorrowing for his son!
Three rugged stones denote the warrior's bed;
While sings the blast that bends the thistle's head,

Dre

Dread is the scene, when, at the midnight hour,
Blazes the distant glare of SARNO's tower.
While hostile on the blast, with eyes of flame,
And looks of wrath, the sp'rit of LODA came.
Though terrible in size his form abhor'd,
The KING advancing draws his flaming sword:
The gleaming blade imparts it's wonted boon,
And, through the fiend, reveals the gloomy moon.'

The poet indulges himself too much in alliteration, the frequent use of which has so much the appearance of artifice as to be displeasing: such rhymes as the following, moreover, are totally inadmissible: 'out done,' 'own'; 'profuse,' 'views'; 'these,' 'days'; 'repeat,' 'state'; 'names,' 'themes'; 'breast,' 'last,' &c.; as are such contractions as 'sp'rit, for spirit; and 'happ'ly,' for happily. To 'Esk Water' succeed a few bagatelles of ordinary merit, and the volume is concluded by a dramatic poem, which is called the 'Dream of St. Cloud.' Except in the first scene, all the characters introduced in this poem are shades! St. Cloud, after a soliloquy on the unhappiness of life, retires into an arbour, where he falls asleep; an angel enters and thus explains the nature of the poem: p. 57:

'Even in sleep

The active spirit leaves it's load of clay,
And ever wanders, as it ever wakes.
And now, St. Cloud, shall thy keen spirit stray
Where I shall point the path; clear shalt thou see
How much of happiness is meant for man,
And where his destined portion may be found.'

The angel tells the *Shade* of St. Cloud, who enters, young in appearance, and in armour, that he comes from a 'fair nymph of angel form,' whose name is Happiness, to direct such as are desirous of seeking her abode: the shade proceeds according to direction, withstanding temptations, assisting the miserable, and persevering in the paths of virtue. Just as he approaches what he considers to be the sacred temple of Happiness, the angel descends on a cloud, and tells him, that his duties have, indeed, been well performed, but that Happiness is as far from him as ever: he then vanishes, and leaves St. Cloud to enjoy, as a reward, the sweets which his conscience will afford him. On the front of the pavilion is a scroll, which, being unfurled by some fairies, discovers it to be the "temple of Sleep." This inscription is on the scroll: 'Happiness has long been retired from the earth, and sleep was among the best gifts that she left behind her. He who would enjoy the blessings she bestows, must be temperate, industrious, generous, and just; he must be a stranger to the horrors of vice, but accustomed to the sorrows of virtue. Return, then, traveller, to thy friends; practise virtue. So shall the dreams of life be pleasant, and, where Happiness alone can be found, the day of eternity delightful!'

After a short soliloquy, the shade vanishes in a column of smoke, and the scene changes to the arbour, where St. Cloud is discovered starting from sleep.

The diction of this dramatic poem is tame and languid; nor is the machinery in any degree suited to our taste.

ART. XXII. *Poems*, by J. Hucks, A.M. Fellow of Catharine Hall, Cambridge. 12mo. 190 pages. Price 3s. 6d. Cambridge, Flower; London, Deighton. 1798.

If we be not disposed to think very highly of Mr. Hucks's poetical talents, we are at least authorized to draw a favorable inference, from the effusions before us, concerning the goodness of his heart. The sentiments which pervade the "Retrospect," the "Philanthropist," the "Ode to Pity," &c. could not, we think, flow from a polluted fountain. Mr. Hucks has either mistaken the nature and extent of his own powers, or has adopted the very erroneous opinion, that blank verse is written with greater facility than rhyme. The chief of these poems are in blank verse, but they are destitute of that spirit, that glowing imagery, and variety of cadence, which are necessary to lead along the attention, and to charm the ear; the "Autumnal Evening," and the lines written "On the Ruins of Denbigh Castle," however, evince a taste and talent for descriptive poetry. The following "Story of Armino, from the Songs of Selma," in Ossian, is written in as easy and interesting a manner as any of Mr. H.'s poems.—P. 85.

' Blow winds in the darkness of night !
Howl, ye waves, on the desolate shore !
This arm was once strong in the fight ;
But the pride of my youth is no more.

' For Daura the lovely I weep,
And Arindal, renown'd in the chace :
Ah ! low in the tomb is their sleep,
And Armino's the last of his race.

' Brave Armor, the swift in the field,
Sought the heart of my daughter to gain ;
His virtues soon taught her to yield,
Nor to me were his wishes in vain.

' But Erath, the traitor, repin'd,
Tho' he never was heard to complain ;
He harbour'd revenge in his mind,
For his brother by Armor was slain.

' One morn, all unconscious of guile,
As she stood on the deep-sounding beach ;
Erath came with a treacherous smile,
And address'd her with flattering speech :

" And oh ! lovely woman, he said,
Why thus wander alone on these shores ?
For Daura to Armor is dead,
Since her absence in vain he deplores.

" He sits on yon rock in despair,
And for thee in soft sorrow he sighs,
Around the shrill sea-fowls repair,
And the dews of the ev'ning arise.

" To carry his love to his arms,
Came I swift o'er the dark-rolling sea,
Where safe from the fear of alarms,
He may find a sweet solace in thee."

She

‘ She went in the joy of her soul,
And the voice of her gladness arose,
“ But O ye white waves! gently roll,
And disturb not my Armor’s repose.

“ And do not his slumbers molest,
Ye shrill storms of the blue tumbling deep!
But sweet be his season of rest,
And propitious the dreams of his sleep.”

‘ Then gently she wav’d her white hand,
For fierce Erath to wait her return,
But Erath fled laughing to land,
And left her in sorrow to mourn.

‘ Her soft voice came across the wide sea,
As Arindal return’d from the chace:
“ Oh! Armor, you think not of me,
And I die in this horrible place.

“ Where art thou, my Armor, my love?
Why torment thus your Daura with fear?
O ye powers who inhabit above!
Ye the voice of affliction can hear.”

‘ Arindal descended the hill,
From destruction my Daura to save;
The gales of the mountain were still,
And fair was his skiff on the wave.

‘ But Armor then came in his wrath;
(The sad tale I am destin’d to tell)—
Ah! swift flew the arrow of death,
And Arindal the valiant fell.

‘ For Erath the traitor he died,
And the boat was destroy’d by a wave;
Armor plung’d in the storm-beaten tide,
And soon found in its bosom a grave.

‘ All night I remain’d on the shore,
But my daughter I could not relieve;
Her fate I could only deplore,
For her sorrows I only could grieve.

‘ I faintly distinguish’d her form,
As she travers’d the rock in despair,
And loud were her cries through the storm,
To the wind loosely floated her hair.

‘ Her voice died away by degrees,
Before morning I heard it no more,
It expir’d, like the soft-sighing breeze,
‘Mongst the grass that waves high on the shore.

‘ For Daura the lovely I weep,
And Arindal renown’d in the chace;
Ah! low in the tomb is their sleep,
And Armino’s the last of his race!”

To these poems of Mr. H. are added a few others by the Rev. William Heald, A. B. They consist of two elegies, which are written with a great deal of feeling and taste, the one "On the Death of Mrs. L.," the other addressed to the "Spring" 1796, and of a few translations from Casimir. The following short ode we shall transcribe, and our readers may compare it, if they please, with Mr. Mason's translation of the same, which we extracted in our review of his last volume (Anal. rev. vol. xxv, p. 165). It is that beautiful little ode of Casimir's in the second book, "*Sonara buxi filia futilis*," &c.—P. 181.

- ' In the high towering poplar thus swinging,
My lyre, hang, suspended at ease:
Thy strings, at wild intervals, ringing,
When swept by the breath of the breeze.
- ' The blue vault it's full beauty displaying,
Not a cloud the pure æther o'er shades,
And in sighs his soft wishes betraying,
The green foliage fond zephyr pervades.
- ' Thus I leave thee to murmur and quiver,
As whispers the slow-rising wind;
While here, stretch'd on the banks of the river,
I repose, in light slumbers reclin'd.
- ' Ha! along yon horizon dark-scowling,
What tempest-fed shadows appear!
Clouds! clouds! rise, incessantly rolling;
Hark! the show'r whistles loud on mine ear.
- ' O my harp, my companion, my treasure,
Let us rise, let us hasten away:
'Tis thus flies the phantom of pleasure,
With quick step ever hastening away.'

ART. XXIII. *The Progress of Satire: an Essay in Verse, with Notes containing Remarks on the "Pursuits of Literature."* 8vo. 32 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Bell, 1798.

SUCH publications as the present are more calculated, we fear, to gratify, than humble, the vanity of the person to whom they are particularly addressed. Whoever is the author of the *Pursuits of Literature*, from internal evidence of the work, we are justified in suspecting, that he is perfectly indifferent to every appeal which is made to his feelings as a man, or his mercy as a christian; he will sneer at it; at the same time, he has sufficient sagacity to know, that every attack upon his work gives it a consequence, which, however artificial, promotes it's sale, and a duration of existence, which, however unnatural, is flattering to it's author.

Our own opinion of the *Pursuits of Literature* may be seen in Vol. xxvi of our Review, page 385; and we cannot affect to be surprized at the coincidence of that opinion with the present, for there can scarcely be two opposite opinions about it, which is offered by a gentleman of taste and learning. In the present poem, or *Essay in verse*, as the author modestly calls it, he has shown, that satire in itself is not a very

very amiable species of composition; he has marked it's origin and traced it's progress *; and exhibited the proper objects of it's application, pointing out, at the same time, the evil consequences of applying it to temporary subjects; 'namely, that it is thereby degraded from a system of morals to a vehicle for prejudice and malignity; and that it is tempted to attacks on private characters, and to a species of tyranny over literature, which discourages laudable exertion, represses modest merit, and poisons the best sources of rational pleasure.'

Some idle pains have been taken to discover who is the author of the *Pursuits of Literature*: Dr. Rennel has been accused of it, and, in consequence, has published * a formal disavowal, in the most distinct and pointed manner, of any co-operation whatever in the work: he wishes, therefore, that the report, which he justly considers is injurious to his character, should be completely contradicted.

ART. XXIV. *A Poem on the Authors of Two late Productions entitled, The Baviad and Pursuits of Literature.* 4to. 16 pages. Rivingtons. London. 1797.

THE author of the present poem, like that of the preceding, feels a just indignation at the cowardly and libellous malevolence, which pervades the *Pursuits of Literature*. Mr. Giffard is also the subject of this writers animadversion.

ART. XXV. *The Egotist: or Sacred Scroll. A familiar Dialogue between the Author of the Pursuits of Literature and Octavius.* 8vo. 43 pages. Murray and Highley. 1798.

THIS is a feeble attempt to make the author of the *Pursuits of Literature* ashamed of his performance: his vanity and malignity are attacked, together with his obscure, pedantic, and inflated style. Our author's object is more meritorious than the execution which he displays to attain it.

ART. XXVI. *Effusions of Fancy.* Small 8vo. 35 pages. Richardson. 1798.

THESE are not very rapturous effusions: but little of the poet's fine frenzy is discernible. To say the truth, they are somewhat languid and uninteresting.

ART. XXVII. *The Mysterious Marriage, or the Hairship of Roselva. A Play in Three Acts,* by Harriet Lee. 8vo. 88 pages. Price 2s. Robinsons. 1798.

WE are led to suspect, from the querulous strain of an advertisement, which is prefixed to this play, that miss Lee has made some unsuccessful endeavour to procure it's performance: 'the difficulty, that during the present management of the theatres, attends producing any piece to advantage upon the stage, has hitherto inclined the author

* Although this progress is avowedly sketched with a very hasty hand, we cannot help being surprised, that the names of Butler and Cervantes should have been omitted.

† In the *Monthly Magazine*, Vol. x, page 2.

to consign hers to obscurity.' One or two more passages of similar import betray disappointment. We must confess, that had the managers of Drury-lane or Covent-garden offered the manuscript of this drama for our opinion of its merits, and probability of its success, we dare scarcely have advised a representation of it: the characters are not supported with sufficient spirit, and, of course, the dialogue is feeble and undignified. The ghost of a murdered female is introduced into the 'Mysterious Marriage.' and as the play was written some years ago, Miss L. puts in her claim to originality of idea in conjuring up the spectre, though, as she justly observes, the charm of novelty may now be lost.

We are really sorry, that any merit should be claimed for perverting the simplicity of the drama by the introduction of visionary and phantastic beings: supernatural agency is the taste of a barbarous age, and ought to be banished from our theatres at once. Miss L. will hardly plead a precedent in Shakspeare or Ben Jonson; her own good sense, surely, will suggest the impropriety of an attempt to revive the exploded superstitions of a former age, and the impossibility that the same effect should be produced by a representation of them now, which attended them at the time when Shakspeare and Ben Jonson lived. No no; let ghosts and hobgoblins people the pages of a romance, but never let their forms be seen to glide across the stage.

ART. XXVIII. *Blue-Beard, or Female Curiosity! a Dramatic Romance; first represented at the Theatre Royal Drury-lane, on Tuesday, Jan. 16th, 1798, written by George Colman, the Younger. 8vo. 54 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Cadell and Davies. London. 1798.*

MR. COLMAN'S observation is perfectly true, that 'english children, both old and young, are disappointed without a pantomime at christmas.' 'Blue-beard,' however, is not a pantomime, but was sketched 'expressly for the season, to supply the place of harlequinade.' Mr. C. is extremely happy in the choice of his subject, the story of old Blue-beard is known in every nursery, and a dramatic representation of it would naturally excite considerable curiosity. Crowded houses have already attested the public approbation of Mr. C.'s performance.

M. D. M.

NOVELS.

ART. XXIX. *Caroline.* By a Lady. 3 Vols. 12mo. 590 pages. Price 10s. 6d. sewed. Hookham and Co. 1798.

THE present production, in which neither the sentiments nor the characters are marked by any force or originality, cannot be classed with the few that claim distinction amidst the innumerable performances of this nature with which the press daily teems. The writer, in attempting to delineate incident somewhat out of the common routine of novel-adventure, is betrayed into improbability and extravagance: simplicity is one of the characteristics of true talent. Caroline, the daughter of a country curate, all perfect in body and in mind, is raised by her beauty and accomplishments to the most illustrious station, discovered to be, on the maternal-side, of noble descent,

descent, is crowned with honour and riches, and triumphs over the malignant contemners of her adverse fortunes. The interest which might have been given to the story is broken by numerous episodes, which swell out the volumes, a very injudicious practice, the resource of indolence, or of barren invention. The generality of novelists do not seem to be sufficiently aware of the importance of dramatic unity to this species of composition. Incidents abrupt, bald, and unconnected, that bear not the semblance of reality, excite but a languid attention in readers of any taste and feeling.

The numberless works of this kind, which come before us in our critical capacity, may perhaps have rendered us somewhat fastidious; a *grave* reviewer cannot be expected to have many sympathies with a romantic love tale; the present publication, though it should not entitle the author to a very exalted station in the temple of literary fame, may yet make a respectable figure in the list of a circulating library, and afford a delectable entertainment to the fair and gentle subscribers, whom we would exhort by *all means* to copy the virtues of the heroine, but by *no means* to expect as a recompense a rich and adoring husband.

ART. XXX. *Calaf; a Persian Tale. In Two Vols. 12mo. 456 pages. Price 7s. sewed. Hookham and Co. 1798.*

OUR critical severity must infallibly be disarmed in giving a verdict on the first literary essay of 'a girl of seventeen.' The immaturity which must necessarily attend the mind, however promising and vigorous, at so early a period of life, might perhaps point out the propriety of waiting till industry had increased, and time ripened, the stores of the understanding, before the learner aspired to the more dignified and arduous duties of the teacher. But we wish not to discourage early indications of talent. The writer of the present performance appears to have taken for her model the eastern tales of the ingenious author of the adventurer, peculiarly calculated by their elegant, poetic language, to warm the youthful imagination; a laudable, and not unsuccessful solicitude is manifested by our author to render the style, metaphors, descriptions, and geography of her story, correct and appropriate. The history of Abdallah, in itself little interesting, and wholly foreign from the principal narrative, which, on that account, it weakens, had better been omitted: an eastern tale should perhaps never run into length, the monotonous periods adopted in this species of composition quickly pall upon the ear. Young writers are seldom aware of the effect and beauty of simplicity; we select the following passage, in which image is crowded upon image, to exemplify our hint.

Vol. 1, P. 159.—“ The incidents which occur in the most unchequered scenes of life must be productive of instruction to the mind of youth; but Abdallah launched his little bark upon a sea whose waves were for ever fluctuating under the winds of vicissitude. The vessel of his hopes was wrecked upon the rocks of disappointment. May he not then flatter himself that his sorrows will, at least, procure for him an interest in the hearts of the compassionate? But as the ocean, which lasheth the shore with its billows, sweepeth away the frail characters

characters engraven on the sand ; even so has the overwhelming tide of time obliterated every trace of grief in the bosom of Abdallah.

V. V.

MATHEMATICS.

ART. XXXI. *Elements of Algebra*, by Leonard Euler. *Translated from the French ; with the critical and historical Notes of M. Bernoulli. To which are added, the Additions of M. de la Grange, some original Notes by the Translator, Memoirs of the Life of Euler, with an Estimate of his Character, and a Praxis to the whole Work, consisting of above two hundred Examples.* In 2 vols. 8vo. About 1050 pages. Price 16s. in Boards. Johnson, 1797.

THE english reader is here presented with one of the most ingenious and explicit treatises on algebra extant. It is, indeed, extraordinary, that it has not sooner been translated into our language, considering the celebrity of the work, and the scarcity of the copies, or difficulty of obtaining them. This is one of the later labours of it's great author, and therefore it may reasonably be expected to contain, in it's matter and form, many of his more mature and judicious thoughts. It was, indeed, composed after he had lost the sight of both eyes, being written down by his servant, an unexperienced young man, to whom he dictated it, and therefore it may be expected to be somewhat less perfect in it's form, than he might otherwise have been capable of rendering it. However, this defect, if any, is partly compensated by the very clear, methodical, and explicit manner, in which the elements of this science are delivered, both for the benefit of beginners, and of the more experienced adepts.

The work was first composed and written in german ; but the first publication of it was in a translation in the russian language, about the year 1768. Next, the original german was published in 1770, by the royal academy of sciences at Petersburg. A french translation of the same, in two volumes, was published in 1774, enriched with historical and explanatory notes, by Mr. Bernoulli ; and also with large and learned additions by Mr. de la Grange, on some of the more abstruse parts of the indeterminate analysis. From a combination of the labours of such a triumvirate, what perfection may we not expect !

The whole of these ingenious labours are now given to the public by the english translator, with an account of the life of the author, some additional notes, and a large collection of useful examples, proposed as exercises of the skill and ingenuity of the reader, in the various branches treated of in the elements : altogether forming certainly one of the most perfect and useful tracts on the algebraical science, that has ever been published.

In this work, the object of the celebrated author was to compose an elementary treatise, by which a beginner, without any other assistance, might make himself a complete master of algebra. The loss of sight had suggested this idea to him, and his activity of mind did not suffer him to defer the execution of it. ' For this

this purpose, M. Euler pitched upon a young man whom he had engaged as a servant on his departure from Berlin, sufficiently master of arithmetic, but in other respects without the least knowledge of mathematics. He had learned the trade of a taylor, and with regard to his capacity was not above mediocrity. This young man, however, not only retained what his illustrious master taught and dictated to him, but, in a short time, was able to perform the most difficult algebraic calculations, and to resolve with readiness whatever analytical questions were proposed to him.— This fact must be a strong recommendation of the manner in which this work is composed, as the young man who wrote it down, who performed the calculations, and whose proficiency was so striking, received no instructions whatever but from this master, a superior one, indeed, but deprived of sight. Independently of so great an advantage, men of science will perceive with pleasure and admiration, the manner in which the doctrine of logarithms is explained, and it's connexion with other branches of calculus pointed out, as well as the methods which are given for resolving equations of the third and fourth degrees. Lastly, those who are fond of diophantine problems, will be pleased to find, in the last section of the second part, all these problems reduced to a system, and all the processes of calculation, which are necessary for the solution of them, fully explained.

Indeed, we admit, with the translator of these elements, that they furnish the most beautiful specimens of analysis that modern Europe can boast. The mathematical student, whether he direct his attention to the properties of whole numbers, fractions, series, logarithms, genesis of equations, or the invention of the higher and more complex formulas, by which the diophantine algebra has been systematized and illustrated, will here find the most satisfactory information, and the profoundest researches. He must be highly pleased with the great simplicity and clearness of this great author's manner. He will here discover no chasm in the reasoning, no link broken or deficient in the concatenation of his ideas, and nothing taken for granted, that has not been previously proved; defects which, in other writers, so often impede the progress of beginners, and discourage them from persecuting their studies. But here, all is luminous, easy, and obvious. In giving the most difficult demonstrations, and in illustrating the most abstruse subjects, the different steps of the rationale are so many axioms; and it was Euler's great talent to render their order and dependence, in their progress through the mind, clear and evident to every capacity.

With regard to the present english edition, the translator seems to have done his duty very properly; to have bestowed both labour and time upon it. The translation is correct; the language clear and scientific. The few notes, which have been added, are chiefly explanatory; that which respects the irreducible case in cubic equations occupies most room, and seemed necessary to render the subject complete: it is taken chiefly from Sanderson's algebra. These notes, as well as those of Bernoulli, are, in this edition, placed all together at the end of the last volume, contrary

trary to the method in the french edition, where the notes stand at the bottom of the same pages where the text is found, which latter is, in our opinion, the better method.

In the life of Euler, prefixed to this edition by the translator, the incidents related are but few, though they might easily have been increased from other larger accounts, which have been elsewhere given of the life and writings of this very eminent man; and especially of critical and particular accounts of his principal works. But without attempting this, the translator has confined his attention to a delineation of the character and powers of his mind; an attempt in which he has succeeded in a very considerable degree, having discriminated and displayed his various and eminent qualities with judgment and precision.

The praxis, which is added, of a large collection of examples to illustrate the elements, was wanted; and, being judiciously chosen, must prove highly useful.

N. M.

ASTRONOMY.

ART. XXXII. *A compendious System of Astronomy, in a Course of familiar Lectures, in which the Principles of that Science are clearly elucidated, so as to be intelligible to those who have not studied the Mathematics. Also trigonometrical and celestial Problems, with a Key to the Ephemeris, and a Vocabulary of the Terms of Science used in the Lectures.* By Margaret Bryan. 4to. 341 pages, with 16 plates, and a frontispiece. Price 1l. 7s. 6d. Leigh and Sotheby. 1797.

ALTHOUGH our age has been distinguished for an extraordinary display of female talents, in the various pursuits and departments of literature, we do not recollect any instance like the present of a lady attempting to elucidate the more abstruse sciences, or is the attempt either vain, or unsuccessful. Mrs. B. is well acquainted with her subjects, and she communicates her knowledge with uncommon perspicuity. In the preface we find the following account of this work.

‘I crave the indulgence of a discriminating public, to a work, the result of much thought and close reasoning—and as the ideas formed of subjects confessedly among the loftiest to the human comprehension, must be imperfect; that my remarks on, and manner of digesting those which are the most popular—may meet a candid reception. I know that I have no claim to the public suffrage, only on account of the clearness of my illustrations, which, as well as the diagrams, are principally original.

‘For the minuteness of my descriptions—the inferences I have taken the liberty to make—and the digressions I have indulged in by way of reflection—I hope to be excused by those whose superior learning does not need the first—whose judgment would lead them to make better than the second, and whose mature reason renders the last unnecessary to them;—begging them to observe that these lectures were written for my pupils, and not originally designed for public inspection.

‘I have not presumptuously offered opinions, without having previously digested those of the best writers on the subject; or attempted

to elucidate without due observation of the principles of this science. For this mental exertion, I expect some countenance from those whose extensive learning and liberality lead them to judge impartially.—

Mrs. B. continues, in the preface, to solicit the indulgence of the public to this her first essay; and concludes with very animated expressions of thanks, and professions of gratitude, to the encouragers of her work. The preface affords by no means a flattering specimen of the lady's composition; it seems written under alternate impressions of fear, hope, and diffidence, while the lectures display much energy and confidence: in the latter Mrs. B. addresses her pupils, but in the former, the public.

The lectures, which are ten in number, explain the various phenomena of the universe, in a very obvious and interesting manner; the digressions, which the author 'indulged in by way of reflection,' contain many beautiful and elevated sentiments, and convey much instruction, both moral and religious, as well as scientific. These reflections are so numerous and well adapted, that it is difficult to know which to prefer as a specimen. The following occurs p. 75, after tracing the sun's apparent progress through the twelve signs of the zodiac.

'You now perceive the cause of the pleasing vicissitude of seasons;—that when the sun rises high above our horizon, by the continuance of his influence, and the less obliquity of his rays, the fruits of the earth are ripened; and that after performing this salutary office, he retires from us by degrees, and bestows the like benign influence on other countries.—At our time of need he returns again, and thus is continually and abundantly aiding every part of the habitable world.

'How grand the design, and how perfect the accomplishment of as much as we have already explored! Then what must be your admiration, astonishment, and gratitude, as we advance in the scrutiny of the wise administration of providence?—It will exceed all that we can form an idea of, and contain more than we can ever comprehend; for the ways of the almighty are unsearchable, although his attributes are as clear as noon day.

'Religion being the firmest support of happiness, I wish to fix your attention on subjects that will lead you to the attainment of it; and shall therefore occasionally display the attributes of the Deity, deducible from the subjects of these lectures, by which I shall fortify your minds against the shock of accident, and the terror of calamity;—raising your hopes on that solid basis, which time nor circumstance can ever shake.'

The following reasons for directing the attention of young ladies to the study of astronomy deserve notice.

'My desire of introducing to my dear pupils these studies, arises from a conviction of their utility, inasmuch as they elevate the mind, by the communication of ideas, naturally tending to refine and purify the imagination, leading it to reject frivolous and low pursuits, and to delight only in such things, as exalt and perfect human nature.'

After other edifying observations, Mrs. B. continues; 'How important does it appear then, to cherish all ideas that elevate the mind and lead on to virtue! it is the only sure barrier against the encroachments

ments of folly and depravity—and also the most graceful ornament of our nature; for if we wish to please by an engaging exterior, there is no surer method to obtain that advantage, than by furnishing the mind with ideas, which are beautiful and harmonious; and dignity of character will always result from elevation of sentiment.'

We think Mrs. B., upon the whole, very successful in rendering astronomy easy, delightful, and instructive; even the outward beauty of the work, with respect to printing, engraving, &c. must contribute to render the study still more pleasing. The style is in general clear and correct, and passages might be selected of elegant composition; a few errors might be also pointed out: works which have a claim to originality, are most liable to blemishes: the performance before us, however, upon the whole, does much credit to the author, and entitles her to the esteem of every lover of science, and every friend of religion and virtue.

N. A.

BOTANY.

ART. XXXIII. *Stapeliae Novae: or a Collection of several new Species of that Genus, discovered in the interior Parts of Africa.* By Francis Masson. Small folio. 24 pages, with 41 coloured Plates. Nicol. 1796.

MR. MASSON has been long known to the botanical world as a very assiduous collector of plants for the Kew garden, and to the scientific world at large, by an account of some of his journeys in the countries north of the Cape of Good Hope, published some years ago in the Philosophical Transactions. He now appears before us as a botanist and a draftsman. 'Compelled,' to use his own words, in his dedication to his majesty, 'to leave the Cape of Good Hope, lest I should lose, in an expected invasion, the collection of living plants I had made during a ten years residence there, I returned to England, and was indulged with your majesty's gracious permission to remain a year at home. Unwilling to waste so much time in idleness, I resolved to render this vacation somewhat profitable to botany, by publishing observations made on that subject in the deserts of Africa. Twenty-four years I have enjoyed the honour of being attached to the royal gardens at Kew, as a collector of exotic plants, and have had the satisfaction of seeing several hundreds of those collected by me in various climates flourishing there. Anxious to recommence my employment as a collector, and still enjoying, though in the afternoon of life, a reasonable share health and vigour, I am now ready to proceed to any part of the globe. Many are the portions of it that have not yet been fully explored by botanists; all of them are equal to my choice.'—'The western coast,' he goes on to say, in a preface, 'of that tract of land which forms the Cape of Good Hope, consists of extensive sandy deserts incapable of cultivation; and the interior part exhibits ridges of high mountains. Between them are other deserts, the soil of which is a reddish earth, intermixed with rotten schistus, impregnated with salt. These deserts, called Karro, produce a great variety of succulent plants, endowed with the power of retaining

water

water sufficient to enable them to survive the long periods of drought which prevail in those regions. The climate differs very much from that of the Cape, where the vegetable productions approach more to the nature of alpine plants. The curious productions of this part of Africa had been too much neglected until the year 1771, when captain Cook, returning from his first voyage round the world, landed the naturalists who accompanied him at the Cape Town. Sir Joseph Banks, on his return, suggested to his majesty the idea of sending a gardener to the Cape to collect seeds and plants for the Kew garden. At that time, the plan was so little approved by the public, that no one but myself chose to undertake the execution of it. I sailed for the Cape in the beginning of 1772, and remained there two years and a half. In 1786, I was sent out a second time to the Cape, and remained there near ten years. Some of the Cape genera consist of numerous species. Very elegant works have been published on the *gerania*, but the history of the *mesembryanthema* is yet deficient. Two species only of *stapelia* were heretofore described by botanists. In my various journeys through the deserts, I have collected about forty, and these I humbly present to the lovers of botany. The figures were drawn in their native climate; and though they have little to boast in point of art, they possibly exhibit the natural appearance of the plants better than figures made from subjects growing in hot-houses can do. This genus seems peculiar to deserts; all the new species I have seen inhabiting the desert parts of the Cape countries.

Several authors have written on the plants of this genus; as Hermannus and Bradley. Forskal, in his journey in Arabia Felix, discovered five new species; and Thunberg, in his Prodrömus, mentions five, three of which I cannot determine, because his descriptions are so short. Colonel Gordon, and captain Paterfon, discovered some very remarkable species, but these are very obscure for want of complete figures and descriptions.

As no one but myself possesses the figures contained in this little work, I have thought it my duty to present them to the public. Generic and specific descriptions are given, and some useful hints annexed to the description of each species.

There is surely some error in this last sentence. The ingenious author ought rather to have said, that each species is illustrated by a general description of the branches, peduncles, bractæ, calyx, and corolla; to which is prefixed, a specific character, followed occasionally by synonymes. At the end of the description are inserted its place of growth, and time of flowering, with the uses to which two or three of them are applied by the natives or settlers. The whole is written in Linnean latin, in the style of that of the Hortus Kewensis, but more uniformly pure*. The colour of the corolla is unnecessarily made a distinct article in the descriptions. Whether the descriptions were made from recent specimens in Africa, or from

* In several of the first ten species, denticulatus is used instead of dentatus; an error, into which he was led by following too closely the specific characters of the Hortus Kewensis, and which he avoids in the succeeding species.

the dried specimens and drawings, we are not told; but from finding no descriptions of the root, leaves, stamina, pistil, nectaria, and fruit, we conclude the latter to have been the case. If so, the figures engraved by that experienced artist Mackensie, (who has playfully written his name on some part of each figure, in one instance on the peduncle, instead of the corner of the plates) are of primary authority. These figures represent the plants exactly as they grow in the sandy soil of the Karro lands, excepting in t. i, and t. 40; the latter engraved from a specimen given to the author by colonel Gordon, in both of which the roots are represented. The trivial names are, in general, as appropriate as could be hoped for in so large a genus. Perhaps *S. radiata*, would have been a more characteristic name for *S. rufa*, t. 20, and *S. quinquedentata* for *S. Gordoni*, t. 40. The public are under great obligations to the excellent author for this specimen of his botanical abilities; and with our thanks he has our sincerest wishes for uninterrupted health and long life, that he may return to narrate to the public, in his old age, the history of all his wanderings, and to bestow on them other communications similar to the present.

K.

POLITICS. POLITICAL ECONOMY.

ART. XXXIV. *The State of the Nation, with respect to its Public Funded Debt, Revenue, and Disbursement; comprized in the Report of the Select Committee on Finance, appointed by the House of Commons, to examine and state the Total Amount of the Public Debts, and of the Interest and Charges attending the same, as they stood the fifth of Jan. 1797: particularizing the Receipts and Disbursements of the several undermentioned Offices: viz. Treasury. Exchequer. Secretary of State. Custom House. Excise Office. Stamp Office. Post Office. Tax Office. War Office. Ordnance Office. Barrack Office. Transport Office. Admiralty Board. Salt Office. Hackney Coach Office. Hawkers and Pedlars Office. Pensions, Salaries, and Fees Office. First Fruits, and Tenths Office. Bank of England, and South Sea Company. The Names of the superior Officers and Clerks in each Department—their Salaries and Fees. Together with the Amount of whatever Additional Pensions or Salaries they receive from other Situations—Paid by the Public.* 8vo. Price 5s. sewed. Symonds. 1798.

THIS is, no doubt, a valuable present to the public. When half the nation are venturing their all in the public funds, it is certainly time, that some account should be given of the income and expenditure, that the public creditor may form some judgment of the security on which he depends. We will furnish the reader with as much information concerning this subject, from these reports, as the nature of our work will allow; at the same time we earnestly recommend every stock-holder, to peruse the volume itself with attention. The accounts are brought down to the fifth of january, 1797.

The reader will not read the following statement, without emotion.

The

	£.	s.	d.
The total amount of the national debt, Jan. 1793, was, - - -	238,231,248	5	2½
The funded debt created from Jan. 1793, to Jan. 1797, is, - - -	88,840,122	14	0
Exclusive of the navy bills, and loan of eighteen millions, amounting together, to the sum of - - -	41,825,774	0	0
Loans to the emperor, which we have guaranteed - - -	4,063,333	6	8
Total of the funded national debt, Jan. 1797	372,960,478	5	10½

It appears then that on January, 1797, the funded debt wanted but 27 millions, to make it four hundred millions! But at this moment the outstanding and unfunded debt amounted to 21 millions, so that January, 1797, the actually contracted debt was 394 millions.

Since January, 1797, a very large additional debt has been contracted, and the winding up of every war has cost an immense sum; it is therefore probable, that, should the war end this year, (which we we fear is not probable) our debt would exceed 450 millions, the annual interest and management of which will be, according to the ratio of the present funded debt, nineteen millions.

Now the whole amount of the revenue, according to these reports, did not exceed this sum, previous to the collections of last year, and of these we can form no judgment from these reports, but it is the general belief, that the taxes have fallen extremely below their *par produce last year*.

Where are we to raise then the annual sum for the expense of the peace establishment? where the expenses of contingent and probable wars, and what must our condition be, if the present war do not immediately terminate?

The whole *expense* of our government must be raised by the imposition of *new taxes*, and this report proves, that some of the old taxes are already falling below their *former produce*, by virtue of their being increased by additional impositions. Are we not quickly approaching that period, when the revenue shall decrease, as the taxes are increased?

And what will the public creditor say, when he is informed, that the *expenses* of collecting some of the taxes, (see fourth report page 9) are nearly 49l. per cent upon the gross produce; that is, nearly half of the sum collected is paid to those who collect the money; for every hundred pounds, for instance, the government receives, from the tax, the collectors get 95l. 9s. 5d.

Such is our economy in the midst of our poverty! It is not difficult thus to account for the loyalty of a great part of the country; we mean those in the liberal pay of government. Indeed, the whole account of the charges of collection prove to us, that *one general tax* on property must take place, and all others be abolished. He who, dependant upon the government, as a security for his money, can look on this statement without horror, has excellent nerves.

Were we at peace with all the world, the account is alarming: what then are we to think of the state of the nation, when we are

fighting with the most powerful people in Europe, who, we are told from authority, will not make peace with us, upon any terms?

The committee have taken great pains to state their conjectures of the cause, why the taxes have fallen short of their estimate, and they uniformly tell us, they will be better next year!

We wish the editor to publish a complete index at the end of the work, which would be an essential improvement to a volume, after which the whole country should inquire with anxiety.

ART. XXXV. *Considerations upon the State of Public Affairs, at the Beginning of the Year 1798. Part the First. France.* By the Author of *Considerations*, &c. at the beginning of 1796. 8vo. 69 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Rivingtons.

LORD Auckland is said to be the author of this performance. It is written evidently in imitation of the manner of Mr. Burke; but although the author has displayed some of the burkean ardour, he falls infinitely below him in richness of colouring, by which the writings of that statesman are so eminently distinguished.

We can, indeed, regard this pamphlet as nothing better than extravagant rant, bottomed on no collection of facts, and inconsistent with events the most notorious, which have taken place in this war. The author represents the french as without energy, passively submissive under every tyranny, and prepared for every yoke. If any thing from the retainers of Mr. Pitt could astonish us, we confess, that we should be astonished at this; for there is an effrontery which imposes for once upon the hearers.

How often have we heard of France weak and helpless, humbled at our feet, and panting to receive from us the law. But the intelligence of Europe has contradicted the noise of the house of commons; and the annihilated country has received the ambassadors of Prussia, of Spain, of Germany, of Sweden, and of Rome. 'The french are and have been ever since the revolution, poltroons and dastards.' What then have been the troops of Prussia, and the legions of Hungary?

'But the king, the priest, and the altar, were not defended by a civil war.' Yet, united Europe has been discomfited, and the successive tyrants, who have afflicted France, have felt the sword of her citizens. Though the king and the priest have fallen undefended, their proud prison has been humbled with the dust, in the face of an opposing army, and Marat, Danton, and Robespierre, have paid the price of their crimes. Perhaps other reasons, and not the absence of french courage, may be assigned for the neglect of the king, the priest, and the altar.

But our readers shall hear the noble lord—and hear him too in his happiest moment. He describes the state of things since the last revolution in France, and would show, that it is the system of Robespierre revived, but modified a little according to the existing taste.

P. 16.—'I must here bestow a few words upon the half-terror, the half-smiling monster of liberty, which has replaced the full visage of the Medusa. Whether the guillotine, like so many other fashions, had been pushed a little into the extreme, or had lost some of its attractions, like other idols, by satiety and repetition, is uncertain; but

but of all the old friends and favourites of the convention, it was alone neglected and forgotten at its restoration. Transportation had taken its place. It had been discovered, perhaps, that the axe defeated the purposes of a refined and curious vengeance, by the suddenness of its blow. The torrid sands and vertical suns of the southern America, the pangs and longings of absence, and the approaches of disease, gave taste and poignancy to death. It dwelt upon the palate, it hung upon the sense; the victim chewed the cud of dissolution. The republic, therefore, in which the progress of science and of morals was no longer checked, always tending to improvement, and advancing in discovery, had abandoned this vulgar instrument of a gross and short-sighted revenge. She had thrown by the axe and gothic sword, and appeared clad in a graceful winning terror, adorned with scillian leaves and athenian shells *; but, with inextinguishable partiality for *our* manufactures, she composed her train of our english bills of attainder, forfeiture, and *præmunire*: transportation was the elegant novel; the idol of the hour; not only the dispatch of the little national window, but the ingenious surprise of the false-deck, and the interesting crisis of a trial before a jury of executioners, gave way to the vengeance *à-la-mode*. Priests and nobles, commissaries and clerks, legislators and directors themselves, were absorbed in the common vortex, the impulse was given to the public taste, and nothing could withstand it. The press itself, which had so often given the ton and law to fashion, now felt its sway, and obeyed in its turn. More than fifty journalists, with I know not how many proprietors, printers, translators, authors, compositors, reporters, and retailers, now ascended the iron-cage on wheels, which was facetiously called the diligence of Guiana, and followed the generals, orators, and statesmen, who had led the mode. A third convoy was prepared of returned priests and nobles, and the straggling deputies, who had missed of places in the first; and, three months after †, the indiscretion of sixteen more newspapers was punished in the same summary and fashionable manner.

To all true believers in lord Auckland this pamphlet is full of consolation, and if they cannot understand his eloquent declamation at the beginning of the book, we will present them with a passage of easy comprehension.

P. 61.—‘Behold the people whose preposterous government affects the empire of the seas, without a ship of war that dares look out of her harbours, and threatens her enemies with her own ruin and calamities! To me, I confess, the menaces of the french appear like those of other madmen. The ravings of the Luxembourg are like the ravings of the Bicêtre—Do this, or give me that, or I will stab or drown myself. Yield to me, says France, or—what? I will come and perish on your shore—throw down your arms, or I will dash myself upon your coasts;—worship me, or I will devote hecatombs of my own children;—acknowledge my superiority, or I will tear out my own vitals! This I consider as the real sense and meaning of her state papers, of her public declarations, if that can be called sense and

* * Report of the ex-bishop Guy-Vernon, upon the ostracism.

† January, 1798.

meaning, which is the very paroxysm of delirium and folly.—I cannot dread the madness of an enemy, I think it rather our own safety and our arms. Can I see with trepidation or regret his legions rotting in the marshes of Calais and Ostend, or blighted upon the bleak hills of Normandy? Can I regard “the army of England,” but as our glory and our prize, if ever (I know not by what help from heaven or from hell) it were to be embarked upon the channel? Shall we hesitate to provoke, and call, with our prayers at least, that glorious issue of the war, in which we may all partake; but which, without some power above us shall obscure and worse-confound, and impel the enemy upon his ruin, we dare not hope for? When the first gaul was at the foot of the capitol, when the senate and the people, the liberty and the gods of Rome were besieged in a single citadel, and the very name of a nation, destined to the empire of the world, hung doubtful upon the issue, the roman did not descend to meet him there? but waited with ardent hope till he had climbed the glacis, then drove him down the steep Tarpeian with resistless impulse and accumulating ruin; and must not we have courage to expect him on these fatal shores, where the armada was wrecked, and from every cliff of which we have beheld his fleets led captive towards our harbours, and the ocean covered with his fragments and his shame?

It is well that the noble lord did not publish this pamphlet, before the voluntary subscriptions were obtained, for he has given to every man an irresistible apology for keeping his money, until a greater occasion. If the french be *mad*, and if they mean only to come here to manure and fatten our soil, surely he is mad who pays, to preserve the soil from the benefit of their carcases. We are glad to hear, that *no danger of invasion whatever exists*, and we are glad to be informed, as we are in this pamphlet, that a system of *economy* is begun by our governors. It is well timed; for, as we are safe from invasion, we think the army will surely admit of great reduction. Having disposed of one invasion by which we were threatened, we are glad that another will soon be disposed of, an invasion from which we have suffered much, for the army is large and insatiable, we mean the army of placemen and pensioners.

ART. XXXVI. *Unite or Fall*. Fifth Edition. 12mo. 23 pages. Price 6d. Wright. 1798.

If this small pamphlet be the production of the earl of Carlisle, as it is reported to be, we must say, that we wish his lordship had measured the ground, over which he has walked, with more accurate and attentive step. It surely is not easy, on a sheet of paper, to prove that this war was *fought* by France, and *unavoidable* by England; yet this is undertaken by the noble author, without diffidence, and without either the appearance of research or labour.

Whatever may be the opinions of thinking men, concerning the ultimate effect, upon the monarchy of this country, of the establishment of a republic in France; it shows a degree of hardness we did not expect from any intelligent statesman, to affirm, that the disposition of France was *immediate war* with England. We believe the direct contrary to be the fact, and the question of ultimate effect was, and yet is, a question of *distant probability*. Neither ought we

to forget, that, when Germany collected her armies on the frontier of France, when the treaty of Pilnitz was framed, when the houses of lords and commons in England rung with speeches of condemnation and contempt of the French, and with triumph at the prospect of a german war, and the probability of german success, France was yet a monarchy, and, without the advantage that foreign invasion gave to the democrats, a monarchy might still have remained.

The war has exhausted our resources, only to increase the dangers; and we are not convinced by this pamphlet, that it was at first a measure of necessity, or will at last be found a safe measure of protection. We anxiously wish for peace, and we think the noble earl would better serve his country by exerting his influence to renew negotiation, than by writing pamphlets to rouse the public spirit to hostility and rage.

ART. XXXVII. *The Progress of Delusion; or an Address to all Parties. Exposing the Influence and Effects of popular Credulity and Indolence, and pointing out the only Means of being preserved from national Ruin.* 8vo. 33 pages. Price 1s. Hatchard. 1798.

THIS writer appears to us qualified to narrate the progress of one delusion; he can tell us when he first conceived, and how he came finally by the conviction, that he was capable of entertaining the public, through the medium of the press.

ART. XXXVIII. *A Letter to the Marquis of Lorn, on the present Times.* By Donald Campbell, Esq. of Barbreck. 8vo. 61 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Chavasse. 1798.

MR. CAMPBELL is a true born scotchman, and a downright soldier. He hates the quackery of the times, he hates ministers, opposition, the french, and democrats. He is, in fact, "a good hater." He sees corruption every where, the worthy neglected, the worthless preferred, the army contemptible, and the whole country humbled before a few *slippan* statesmen. He thinks the country is in a dreadful delusion, and we agree with him in this, in conceiving, that eloquence is an evidence of solid wisdom.

Indeed the pamphlet abounds with spirited and solid remarks, written with all the bluntness and courage of a soldier; but the reader shall hear the hero himself.

P. 13.—'Is it possible, my lord, that all the wisdom, all the sagacity, all the political knowledge, all the integrity, and all the deliberative talents in the country, are confined to the principals of our two factions? Surely there must exist some efficient powers of mind in the great number of lords, commons, and men of property! For my part, I can conceive a man to be very wise, very honest, very sagacious, and very active, without the fluent verbiage of Mr. Pitt, the argumentative force and dexterity of Mr. Fox, or the wit of Mr. Sheridan. How comes it then, that the people, gasping for a change of administration, never look abroad in search of others? I will tell your lordship. Because the whole mass of their thoughts and opinions is ingulfed and absorbed by those two men; who, if they were liable to no other positive objection, are at least thrown

into the shade of suspicion, if not disqualification, by the very fact of their being statesmen by trade, or trading statesmen. Why does not our gracious sovereign form a new administration, out of the virtue and sound sense of the proprietary of this kingdom? Because having too severely felt, he well knows, the fatal effects of this pernicious power; because he knows that a third party, particularly if erected upon honest independent principles, would now be looked upon as an interloper in the trade, and be driven away; that is to say, voted out of office directly. Would not one be led *prima facie* to imagine, that the greater part of our statesmen, in and out of power, were in league with those abominable monsters who have conspired to bring our constitution first into contempt, and then to ruin? Not only have they usurped to themselves the whole business of public discussion, but prevailed upon our legislators to resign into their hands the whole power of thinking. The free agency of members of parliament, in matters of public importance, seems to be not only lost, but utterly forgotten, as if it never did exist.

ART. XXXIX. *O'Connor's Letters to Earl Camden.* 12mo. Price 1s. 1797.

THESE letters appeared in the Courier on the 29th of January last, and, consequently, must be too well known, and too generally read, to demand from us the notice to which they are otherwise entitled.

We do not know, that the statements they contain are true; but, if they be true, we are not at a loss to account for the distracted state of Ireland; for these letters tell us of acts of the Irish government, too horrible for repetition. We are not, however, ready to believe reports of persons in the service of Great Britain, which would have disgraced Tiberius, Caligula, or Nero.

They are not the letters of Arthur, but of Roger O'Connor.

ART. XL. *The Speech of Earl Moira on the present alarming and dreadful State of Ireland. In the House of Lords, November 22, 1797.* 8vo. 17 pages. Price 3d. Chapple.

ART. XLI. *The Speech of Earl Moira on the Address of the Lord Lieutenant, (Feb. 19,) on the alarming State of Ireland, and the Earl's Motion for Conciliatory Measures.* 8vo. 6d. Jordan.

ART. XLII. *The Speech of Lord Clare, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, in the House of Lords of Ireland, February 19, 1798, on a Motion made by the Earl of Moira for adopting Conciliatory Measures.* 8vo. 46 pag. Price 1s. 6d. Wright. 1798.

It is not necessary, that we should give any extracts from speeches, which have been published in all the newspapers.

Lord Clare seems to admit all the facts of atrocious torture and oppression, charged by lord Moira upon the Irish administration, and only seems to contend, that the state of things rendered this conduct necessary. Necessity has been the plea of every tyrant from the beginning of time; but we are sorry to see it advanced by a lord chancellor of Ireland to justify admitted torture. Good Heavens! on what times are we fallen! The revival of torture we did not expect to have had to lament in the dominions of George the third.—How desperate must be those ministers, who, by such measures, hazard the character

rafter of their gracious sovereign! We dare say, that, when the monarch reads this defence of lord Clare, he will exclaim

“Non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis.”

ART. XLIII. *A Second Letter to the Earl of Moira, on the Commercial Situation of Ireland.* By the Author of a Letter to his Lordship in Defence of the Conduct of his Majesty's Ministers, and of the Army in Ireland. 8vo. 52 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Bell.

WE do not know whether this gentleman took his information from lord Clare, or lord Clare took his information from this gentleman, respecting the commercial state of Ireland; but we see there is an agreement in their accounts. It is, however, admitted by lord Clare, that the commerce of Ireland has greatly decreased the *last year*, and this gentleman's account only reaches to lady-day of that year, a period of nearly twelve months, from this time. When the condition of the inhabitants of any country is the question under consideration, it is ridiculous to show, that the commerce, on which they subsisted, was *once* little in comparison with it's present state; because, the commerce having become very considerable, *population had increased in proportion*; and, that a spectacle of human wretchedness should be exhibited to the observer's eye, it is surely not necessary, that the commerce should be reduced to *less than it ever was at any time before*.

Our author flatters himself, that his first letter laid hold of the public opinion: we confess, that we doubt the fact, and far from being convinced by his letters, *we* continue to think the exertions of lord Moira, wise, seasonable, and beneficent, his information true, and his conclusions just.

For our account of the author's first letter, see Review for January last, p. 94.

ART. XLIV. *A General View of a Plan of Universal and Equal Taxation.* 8vo. 8 pages. Price 6d. Cadell and Davies. 1798.

WE are decidedly of opinion, that some tax of this kind must take place, and all others be abolished, if we be preserved from a violent and complete revolution.

The one only objection to such a scheme as this is the *disclosure* of each man's property.—Indeed this is a slender excuse for a great evil, for such appears to us the most scandalous inequality of Mr. Pitt's mode of taxation.

We shall give this scheme, for which the public is indebted to Dr. Hunter of York, in it's full outline; and let it speak for itself.—P. 1.

‘1. Let *one shilling and sixpence* be levied *annually*, on every pound of clear rental arising from freehold lands, without exception, and *one shilling* on every pound of clear rental arising from all freehold houses and buildings. Leasehold lands, copyhold lands, tithe estates, rent charges, mills, mines, waterworks, canals, docks, turnpikes, and all such like estates, to have a value put upon them, and when reduced into nominal money, let them be rated *five shillings* on every hundred pounds, or, what is the same thing, one quarter per cent.

‘2. Private persons, bodies corporate, colleges, charities, guardians of minors and lunatics, possessing estates in money, wherever placed

placed, shall be rated *five shillings* on every hundred pounds, or one quarter per cent.

3. Annuitants should have a value put upon their respective annuities, according to the tables; and, for the sum so calculated, they should be rated at *five shillings* for every hundred pounds, or one quarter per cent. That is, an annuity of 500*l.* if valued at seven years purchase, would be worth 3500*l.* for which five shillings should be rated on every hundred pounds, making the sum of 8*l.* 15*s.* or one quarter per cent. The lands and private money belonging to such annuitants, to be rated distinct from the annuities.

4. Capitals employed in shipping, insurance, banking, farming, and every branch of trade and manufacture, (considered as clear property) should be rated, when stock is taken, at *five shillings* on every hundred pounds, or one quarter per cent.

5. Professional persons, as clergymen, physicians, lawyers, attorneys, surgeons, apothecaries, &c. should have their incomes valued according to the tables, and when reduced into nominal money, they should be rated for the same as annuitants.—The landed and monied property of this class to be rated distinct from their professional income. In this class I include the great officers of state, the lord chancellor, the judges, the speaker of the house of commons, placemen, pensioners, and all persons holding lucrative situations under government, above a certain sum; the officers of the army and navy, in their professional line, excepted.

ART. XLV. *A Third Letter to the Right Hon. William Pitt on the State of the Nation and the Prosecution of the War.* By Edward Tatham, D. D. Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford. 8vo. 31 pa. Price 1*s.* Rivingtons. 1797.

Dr. T. tells us, that he is a *politician*. Perhaps so; but we fear a politician whose labours will never much assist the statesman in the execution of great designs. He says the french republic and the english monarchy cannot co-exist. Therefore, as the rector of Lincoln college has decreed the eternity of the english monarchy, he has determined upon the instant destruction of the french republic. This is a heroic and a noble determination. Perhaps, however, this pious rector will be in the situation of St. Paul, who was *not* a politician, “to will may be present with him, but how to perform that which he desireth, he may not so easily find.” Hold, cries the rector, I abhor such an insinuation, I can *do* all I will, and want nothing but *money*. Very true, good doctor, but that is a great *want* according to your own ideas, because that which is wanted is by you stated to be omnipotent. Indeed the doctor has ascribed so much to the influence of money, that we fear he really believes the god *Mammon* to be the first in heaven and in earth. If so, we may admit his claim to the character of a politician, but he must pay dearly for the character; for he must lose the character of a *divine*. Well, but says the doctor, I can find money, “I can call spirits from the vasty deep.” Yes, and so can we, and so can any one, but will they come at your bidding? You can *call for* money, but will it come? Why, says the doctor, I can find in this

this country 372,450 persons, who have together an income of 74,355,000l.; and I would impose a tax of one-fourth of this income, which is nearly nineteen millions revenue; and I contend, that, *if this be practicable*, it is a good scheme. We think so too; but why not impose a tax of *half* the income, and so raise a revenue of thirty-seven millions? for, *if this be practicable*, it is a *better scheme*, and if Mammon be god, with this, perhaps, Dr. T. might lead our armies to Paris.

Pardon us, gentle reader, that we are not able to treat the rector of Lincoln college with seriousness *as a politician*; for, indeed, he writes as if he meant to make himself merry with our situation.

His political pamphlets, we may truly say, whatever be his character as a writer on other subjects, are written in a strain so romantic, that, if he be not in jest, we should have thought them, if his character and station did not protect the doctor from such an imputation, written in moments, when the grape had yielded it's delirium.

ART. XLVI. *A Proposal of a Substitute for Funding in Time of War; addressed to the Right Hon. Mr. Pitt.* By John Prinsep, Merchant. 8vo. 96 pa. Johnson. 1797.

THIS proposal comes forward with very high pretensions. It is said to have saved the finances of Bengal from destruction, when a bankruptcy was thought inevitable by the East India company itself.

It is, that government be allowed to create and issue a paper currency. With this currency to pay all salaries of the civil and military officers; all contracts for navy, victualling, and ordnance; and all pensions above sixty pounds a year.

That government cease to pay money or bank notes until a time to be fixed, after peace is made; that the paper so issued bear interest, and that the holders, at the time *so fixed and specified*, be entitled to subscription on the consolidated fund of the public debt, bearing interest at three per cent, after the medium price of that stock on the day of such ratification.

Notwithstanding the miracles this plan has wrought in the east, owing we suspect to the peculiar circumstances of an united and dependent company, we have no expectation of it's success here. We lament the present state of the Bank; and the notes of that company being made a *legal tender to the national creditor*, it is an approach to that ruin, which we fear is certain; but which we shall think inevitable, the moment the government of the country is allowed to issue paper, and call it the legal currency of Great Britain.

We shall not rejoice with Mr. P. in the birth of english assignats; and we do not wish to see the day, in which all the property of the country shall be in the hands of a prodigal minister, and the people thus bound to follow his fortunes, and to share his fate.

ART. XLVII. *A View of the Conduct of the Executive in the foreign Affairs of the United States, as connected with the Mission to the French Republic during the Years 1794, 5, and 6.* By James Monroe, late Minister

Minister Plenipotentiary to the said Republic. Illustrated by his Instructions and Correspondence, and other authentic Documents. 8vo. 125 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Philadelphia printed; London reprinted for Ridgway. 1798.

THE miserable chicanery of Mr. Harper, in defence of the conduct of America, sufficiently convinced us*, before we had the corroboration of lord Grenville's praise, that France had just ground of bitter complaint against her adopted child and ally. This easy and clear narrative of facts puts the matter out of all dispute. Mr. M. shows the pitiful deceit of the american government, which, in the midst of the warmest professions of zealous attachment to the new republic, had the baseness to form a treaty with Britain, in opposition to the interests of France, in the teeth of an existing treaty with that country, and in contradiction to all the sentiments it had professed for its ally.

If any thing be wanting to hold up America to the scorn of nations, it is only the recollection, that she is the adopted child of France, that she has received from that country political existence and support, and that the treaty, in violation of which the british treaty was formed, was made in the hour of american distress, when France had laden her with obligations, and, therefore, the fair *construction* of every thing in this treaty must be in favour of France, and as putting her at least on an equal footing with other nations.

Mr. M. thinks he sees in the american government a *system of conduct*, adopted with the express view of forming an union with the coalesced kings, against the rising liberty of Europe, and of involving that country in a war with France.

The reader shall see the connected evidence he produces of this horrible design. The following are his reasons.

P. 68.—‘The first is, the appointment of a person as minister plenipotentiary to France, in the commencement of the french revolution, who was known to be an enemy to that revolution, and a partisan of royalty; whereby the name and weight of America (no inconsiderable thing at that time in that respect) was thrown into the scale of kings, against that of the people, and of liberty.

‘Second, the continuance of that person in office, till every misfortune predicted of his mission, by those who opposed it in the senate, and disapproved it throughout the community at large (which latter description was a very numerous one,) was nearly verified; the connexion between the two countries having gradually diminished, as the french revolution advanced, till, at the time of his recall, it was reduced to a slight bond indeed: in the course of which time the embargo at Bourdeaux was imposed, and continued, till removed upon the application of Mr. Fenwick, consul at that port; for our minister was not attended to: sundry articles of our treaty of commerce were likewise set aside by formal decrees, and many spoliations in consequence made upon it.

‘Third, the final removal of that person, not from a regard to the public interest, which was known thus to suffer, but because it was demanded by the french government. Upon which occasion it was

* See our Review, Vol. xxvi, p. 615.

intimated to him, that his removal was attributable to that cause only; which intimation became known to the french government.

* Fourth, my appointment to the french republic, with the circumstances attending it: it being known that, with other members of the senate, I had opposed in many instances the measures of the administration, particularly in that of the mission of Mr. Morris to France, and of Mr. Jay to London; from the apprehension those missions would produce, in our foreign relations, precisely the ill effect they did produce,

* Fifth, the instructions that were given me to explain to the french government the motives of Mr. Jay's mission to London, not as an act of condescension on our part, at the demand of the french government, but of policy, *to produce tranquillity, and give satisfaction*, whilst the negotiation was depending; by which instructions, if the existence of a power to form a commercial treaty was not positively denied, yet it was withheld, and the contrary evidently implied.

* Sixth, the strong documents that were put in my possession at that period, by the administration, of its attachment to France and the french revolution; so different from any thing before expressed.

* Seventh, the resentment shown by the administration on account of the publication of those documents; it having been intended they should *produce* their effect, *at the same time*, and yet be kept *secret*.

* Eighth, the approbation bestowed on me by the administration, when I made vehement pressures on the french government for a repeal of its decrees, under which our commerce was harrassed, exhibiting a picture of its spoliations, &c. and the profound silence and inattention of the administration, when those decrees were repealed, and a disposition shown by that government to assist us in other cases.

* Ninth, the power given to Mr. Jay to form a commercial treaty with England, in the midst of a war, by a special mission, at a time when no such advance was made to treat on that subject with France, and her advances at best coolly received.

* Tenth, the withholding from me the contents of that treaty until after the meeting of the senate; notwithstanding the embarrassment to which I was, in the interim, personally exposed, in consequence of the explanations I had before given to the french government, by order of the administration, of the motives of the mission which produced it; which deportment proves clearly that the administration did not deal fairly with me from the commencement.

* Eleventh, the submission of the treaty to Mr. Adet after the advice of the senate, before the ratification of the president; at a time when, as it appears by satisfactory documents, it was resolved to ratify it; which submission therefore was probably not made to obtain the aid of Mr. Adet's counsel, in which light it would have been improper, especially as it had been withheld from his government; but to repel an objection to the candour of the administration, in its conduct in preceding stages.

* Twelfth, the character of the treaty itself, by which (according to the administration) we have departed from the modern rule of contraband, with respect to many articles made free by modern treaties; have also made an arrangement, by which, whilst it professes not to have sacrificed the right, it has actually and avowedly sanctioned the doctrine

doctrine and practice of England, in seizing provisions at pleasure, as contraband of war; and have likewise yielded the principle, so important to America, that free ships shall make free goods.

* Thirteenth, the conduct of the administration after the ratification of the treaty, being in all cases irritable towards France; although it was apprehended, the ratification would embroil us with that power; and although at a moment when it was proposed to decline the ratification, a most soothing and humiliating apology was drawn, to be presented to the english government, for declining so to do.

* Fourteenth, I should not notice my recall, being in itself a circumstance too *trivial* to merit attention, if it were not for the state in which our affairs were in my hands, when my recall was decided; being at a period when it appeared I had succeeded in quieting the french government for the time, and was likely to do it effectually. To be left there to that precise time, and then withdrawn and censured, seems to authorize a presumption, that I was left there, in the first instance, in the expectation I would not defend that treaty, and in consequence whereof a rupture would ensue, and recalled afterwards, when it was known I had done my duty, and was likely to prevent a rupture.

To those who are not deaf to the voice of truth, or hostile to the interests of freedom, those who are yet animated by the spirit that once was english, by those feelings which embrace truth with ardour, and freedom with ecstacy, we recommend this valuable performance.

Men may, for a time, be asleep to their true interest, they may forget the privileges bought with the best blood of their ancestors, they may be ready to crouch and fawn before tyrants, alarmed by ideal dangers and false representations; but if even men forget the truth, it is still eternal, *that all individual prosperity must be built upon the foundation of public liberty.*

ART. XLVIII. *The Layman's Address to the Clergy of England, humbly submitted to the Perusal of every Gentleman in the Kingdom.* By a Friend to the Church Establishment. 8vo. 31 pa. Price 1s. Bath, Crutwell; London, Dilly. 1798.

THE author appears to be a very sincere friend to the church of England, which he is anxious to deliver from all possible reproach.

He sees her perfect in all things, but in the distribution of her preferments; and he wishes to see this defect corrected. In one word, the writer wishes to have the clergy reside in their parishes, and curates, where there must be curates, better paid; and who does not wish this? but who expects it?

ART. XLIX. *Religious and Philanthropic Tracts: consisting of 1. A Discourse on the Principles, the Temper, and Duties of Christians; the second Edition, enlarged: 2. An Essay on the State of the Poor, and on the Means of improving it by Friendly Societies, &c. 3. Rules for forming and managing Friendly Societies, with a View to facilitate their general Establishment.* By James Cowe, M.A. Vicar of Sunbury, Middlesex. 8vo. 131 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Robson. 1797.

WE never take up a book written in the service of the labouring poor, without very grateful emotions towards the author of it. The present volume, is the production of a very sensible, and we firmly believe a very benevolent clergyman, who has taken no small pains to promote the happiness of his parishioners. It consists of a discourse on the principles, temper, and duties of christians; an essay on the state of the poor, and of the means of improving it by friendly societies; and a set of rules for the management of friendly societies.

The rules appear to us to be in general unexceptionable; but we confess we do not wholly approve of the eighteenth rule, with the provision for paying the minister for his sermon, and with the compulsive article which fixes a forfeit upon every one who does not go to church.

We know it may be said, and we lament that it can be said with truth, that many curates are poor, and cannot well afford to forego the payment in question; but as such service *deprives them of nothing*, we cannot calmly see the clergy resign the merit of their free support of these institutions, for the sake of a small gratuity. It were to be wished, indeed, that there was so much candour in the world, as to render our objection to the compulsive clause about going to church, unnecessary; but if it be unnecessary, then is the rule itself unnecessary; for that to which there can be no objection, should never be attended with penalties.

We think it should be ruled, that *all* should go to church, who did not religiously object to such attendance; and this liberality, where the clergy are concerned with the clubs, would be creditable and honourable to them, and would tend to conciliate all; whereas the opposite rule tends to alienation and remark.

Notwithstanding these slight objections, we have read this volume with approbation and delight, and, recommending it to the attention of all our readers, we sincerely hope, that the benevolent exertions of the respectable author will be attended with all possible success.

It is our decided opinion, that something must be done for the labouring poor, if we would preserve the peace, or even the independence of our country.

ART. L. *An Address to the Parochial Committees of the several Parishes in Bath, met to deliberate upon the Propriety of incorporating for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor by the Establishment of an House of Industry.* By J. Wood. 8vo. 34 pages. Price 1s. Bath, Crutwell; London, Dilly. 1798.

MR. WOOD, well known for his laudable exertions in behalf of the poor at Shrewsbury, here gives an account of the house of industry at that town, of which he is a director; and urges, with great zeal and ability, the inhabitants of Bath to found a like establishment.

We think the scheme of houses of industry recommended to general adoption by many forceful reasons; but every possible attention should be given, that they be not converted into mere speculations of economy, and every thing else be neglected, but the *cheapness* of the provision thus furnished for the poor.

In our opinion, every thing is subordinate to the comfort and instruction of the unfortunate part of our brethren.

S. A.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

ART. LI. *Moral Biography; or the Worthies of England displayed: containing the Lives of Persons eminently distinguished for their Virtues and Talents. Designed for the Use of private Families, and public Schools. Second Edition, improved. Embellished with a fine Engraving. Small 8vo. 207 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Sael. 1798.*

WE think the subjects of this biography are judiciously selected, but the volume is not made so interesting to children as it might have been by the insertion of a greater number of anecdotes.

ART. LII. *Pastoral Lessons, and Parental Conversations, intended as a Companion to A. L. Barbauld's Hymns in Prose. 12mo. 96 pages. Price 1s. Darton and Harvey. 1797.*

THESE pastoral lessons have a moral tendency, and are written in an easy intelligible style, but are very inferior to the work which they are proposed to accompany.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ART. LIII. *The Spirit of the Public Journals for 1797. Being an impartial Selection of the most exquisite Essays and Jeux d'Esprit, principally Prose, that appear in the Newspapers and other Publications. With explanatory Notes and Anecdotes of many of the Persons alluded to. To be continued annually. 12mo. 442 pages. Price 5s. in boards. Richardsons. 1798.*

A PUBLICATION of this sort, if conducted with tolerable taste and judgment, will afford a rational amusement for many an idle hour. The newspapers of the present day are very superior to those which formerly appeared among us: they frequently contain articles which merit to be preserved beyond the limits of their fleeting records.

The editor of the present selection, is himself the author of a number of the articles contained in it, which, however, he has modestly declined to enumerate. In an advertisement he states that the greater part of the essays, &c. have an antiministerial tendency, but that they were not preferred on the score of partiality; it was his wish, and, he justly observes, equally his interest, to gratify all parties: adv. p. iv:—'and that he might do so, he waded through a great number of files of ministerial papers, till he was woefully convinced of the truth of Mr. Burke's observation, that "the balance of intellect is entirely on the side of the jacobins." The wit and humour of the adverse faction, as far at least as he could judge from the evidence of the Public Journals, may be compared to "two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff; you shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them, they are not worth the search."——Shakespeare.'

D. M. N.

ART.

ART. LIV. *Reform or Ruin: take your Choice. In which the Conduct of the King, the Parliament, the Ministry, the Opposition, the Nobility and Gentry, the Bishops and Clergy, &c. is considered, and that Reform pointed out which alone can save the Country.* By J. Bowdler, Esq. 8vo. 42 pages. Price 1s. Hatchard. 1798. The same abridged, Price 3d. Ibid.

THIS pamphlet bears the impression of a seventh edition; and if we be to receive this as a proof of an extensive circulation, a proof become of late a little ambiguous, it is of some importance to inquire what principles it inculcates.

Well then, gentle reader, you are to be informed, that this popular pamphlet inculcates (p. 21) the *divine right* of priests, in a tone as lofty as was ever heard within the walls of the Vatican; and (p. 22) the *divine right* of kings, whose title to their crowns is affirmed, in another part of the book, to be as valid as the title of the labourer to the cottage which his own hands have built.

The bishops and higher clergy are pure, (p. 12) and a few of the lower orders only are negligent or criminal.

The opposition politicians (p. 10) have caused the disturbances in Ireland, the mutiny at sea, and the triumph of the french; they are (p. 28) a set of wretches who have left untried no means to *ruin their country*.

The poor in England, and the labourers, live better than those of like condition (p. 30) in any part of the world: all but they live on potatoes, oats or rye, barley or rice, without any butchers meat at all. And yet we are told by Dr. Webster, a celebrated writer in America, that the poorest labourer in that country has meat upon his table *twice a day**. We are really astonished at the effrontery of Mr. B., who, however, to atone for his falshood and abuse, is very religious, recommends *every man to reform himself*, as the only reform that is wanted, and wishes new penal laws to be made to compel the observance of external acts of religion.

A politician of another clais would state with the most serious conviction, that, as man is the creature of institutes and habits, the degeneracy of the times may be traced to the corruption of government, and would urge the necessity of public reform and economy, in order to produce *individual reform*. But we are no politicians, and we leave the contending doctors to settle their own disputes. It is indeed our duty to say, that this pamphlet is written in a style of peculiar arrogance and flippancy, and that we are sorry to find Mr. B. was authorized to advertise the approbation of our amiable archbishop, Dr. Moore, of the principles and statements of his work. We see in America that Peter Porcupine is the champion and head of a party; but we did not expect that englishmen had yet been such babes in literature and knowledge, as to have chosen Mr. Bowdler for their chief.

* Webster's Effects of Slavery on Morals and Industry. Price 1s. 6d. Dilly,

ART. LV. *An Address of great Importance (at least in the Opinion of the Writer) to the Natives of England, and the Emigrants from France, and the Rulers of both Countries.* By a plain Englishman. In French and English. 8vo. 50 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Longman. 1798.

THIS is a well-meant address, both to the english nation, and to the french emigrants now residing in this country. It's objects are to unite the people of England to resist the french, by a representation of their *interest*; and to impress upon the minds of the emigrants a sense of gratitude for the protection they have received in this country, in order that, should there be a necessity, they may lend their assistance in repelling their invading countrymen.

We have no doubt, that the writer can carry on a correspondence with the merchants of Dunkirk in french, sufficiently correct and intelligible for that class of men; but he is a bold man, who ventures to appear as an *author* in a foreign language. We certainly do not think the *french* of this writer entitled to much praise; it is written in a very involved and perplexed style; he has not copied the elegant simplicity of Fenelon, or is he always attentive to grammatical correctness. We find him making 'quoique' govern the indicative, instead of the subjunctive mood; and after the verb 'avoir,' the participle is often erroneously declined. The writer has enough of french, however, for all the purposes of general communication, and the emigrants will be able to comprehend his meaning, and may, perhaps, profit by his advice.

Without agreeing with the author in all his postulata, we commend the design of his writing as far as it's object is to promote the prosperity and peace of this country.

ART. LVI. *Recherches sur l'Usage des Radeaux pour une Descente, &c.*—*Inquiries concerning the Use of Rafts for an Invasion*, by M****, Colonel in the Corps of Condé, late Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris. 8vo. 20 pages. Price 1s. Dulau. 1798.

THE construction of these rafts was confided to Mr. Monge, with whom the author of this little tract was once intimately acquainted, having in his youth pursued with him a course of studies during the space of three years, and having afterwards been admitted with him a fellow of the royal academy of sciences at Paris. Our author represents him as being one of the most skilful geometers in Europe; to which he has added, not merely a variety of collateral knowledge, but of knowledge comparatively unconnected with what should seem to be his favourite study: he is a great natural philosopher, and a good chemist. Mr. Monge possesses an ardent imagination, and is a violent jacobin; 'a better choice, therefore,' says our author, 'could not possibly have been made.' But, after all, skilfulness and ingenuity, though they may overcome difficulties, cannot alter the nature of an impossibility. The object, therefore, of the present pamphlet, is to prove, the *absolute impossibility* of making a hostile descent upon England by means of rafts.

Without having troubled ourselves to make the calculations which are presented in these pages, as decisive of the impossibility of an invasion

invasion by means of rafts, the plan seemed at first sight so truly ridiculous and extravagant, that, for our own parts, we have never felt the slightest apprehension on the subject; and have all along considered, as our author does, 'that the recourse to so chimerical a mode is the most unequivocal confession possible of the inability, which the french experience of effecting an invasion by ordinary means.'

This pamphlet is well calculated to dissipate the timidity even of the most timid.

ART. LVII. *More Truth for the Seekers; or the Charges of Dr. Markham vindicated, in Opposition to the Defence of the Quakers, imprisoned for not paying Tythes.* By George Markham, D. D. &c. 8vo. 46 p. Price 1s. Jordan. 1798.

Dr. M. here re-iterates his charges upon the poor quakers, whom he long confined in prison, and throws his thunderbolts with still fiercer vengeance than before at the devoted heads of his dissenting parishioners.

We have expressed our conviction, in our Review of the different accounts of these transactions published by the parties, that Dr. M. did *not* earnestly endeavour, and patiently determine to recover his tithes, by a simple appeal to the magistrates, at the least possible expense to the poor quakers, which we think it was his *duty* as a christian, and his *interest* as a clergyman to have done. Our conviction on this subject, after perusing this pamphlet, remains the same, and has received *confirmation*. The rest of the pamphlet consists of violent general charges against the body of the quakers, which we hope they do not merit, and which we expect them to repel in the spirit of meekness. They will lose nothing by this dispute with the angry vicar of Carlton, conducted as it has hitherto been. Y. 5.

ART. LVIII. *Pasigraphie ou premiers Éléments du nouvel Art, &c.—Pasigraphy, or the first Elements of the new Art of writing and printing an universal Language, in such a Manner as to be read and understood in all other Languages, without having recourse to Translation.* Invented, and improved by J. De M—— formerly Major in the German Infantry. 4to. About 120 pages. Printed at Paris in 1797. Imported by De Boffe.

An introductory letter from Sicard, instructor of the deaf and dumb, precedes a preface by the author, part of which we shall here translate:

'The word *pasigraphy* is composed of two greek words, *pas*, to all, and *grapho*, I write. To write even to those, of whose language we are ignorant, by means of an invention which presents the image of the idea usually conveyed by different syllables: this is the art termed *pasigraphy*. Suppose two inhabitants of distant countries, each of whom is acquainted with his own idiom alone; these may learn (*pasigrapher*) to pasigraphise, so that what the one writes in his own language, the other shall understand in his. This mode may be adapted to all languages, so that the same written or printed paper may be read and understood in each, in like manner as the ciphers used in arithmetic, the characters in chemistry, and the

the notes in musick, are equally intelligible from Petersburg to Malta, from Madrid to Peru, from London, or Paris, to Philadelphia, or the isle of Bourbon.

‘ If *pasigraphy* should become general, it will produce the following effects:

‘ 1. An increased degree of social and commercial communication between man and man;

‘ 2. It will become a sort of *glossometer* calculated to supply the defects of translations, in ordinary correspondence, and will not only serve to rectify errors, but present a general scale for all languages;

‘ 3. There will result from it more celerity, facility, justness, economy, secrecy, and safety, in respect to diplomatic, military, civil and mercantile transactions. The same clerk, although he is ignorant of any other than his own language, may yet *pasigraphist* ten different letters, which shall be read in as many distinct languages;

‘ 5. A livelihood will be obtained for a great number of professors, masters, writers, engravers, founders, and printers, who will be occupied in the multiplication of elementary books, &c. and a variety of branches of industry, worthy the protection of enlightened governments.

‘ Such is the object to which a military invalide has directed the only labours permitted by his painful infirmities. This old officer, not only conceived the idea, but has sworn to complete his scheme respecting *pasigraphy*; for he laments the situation of those virtuous friends, who are victims to the difference at present existing between languages; and he here devotes the fruit of his labours and his meditations to the special utility of a profession, in which life itself is connected with the acquisition of knowledge. Occupied from inclination in the study of morals and politics, he preserves in his retreat the most tender esteem for such respectable foreigners as deign to smile on his efforts, to enable them to communicate their ideas to each other, for it is the height of his ambition to remove those intellectual barriers, which preclude them from the happiness of reciprocal intercourse.’

In twelve lessons, denominated *hours*, from the time occupied in attaining them, the author lays down the rules and principles of this new art. An index and nomenclature exhibit words accompanied with their corresponding signs, and much research has evidently been employed in perfecting this ‘ocular language.’

‘The idea of an universal mode of expression is not altogether new, for it was broached by one of our own philosophers many years ago. It must be allowed, however, that it is here for the first time brought within the verge of possibility. S.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

HISTORY OF ACADEMIES.

ART. I. *Cisalpine republic.* The university of Pavia, which still subsists provisionally, has undergone many interesting changes. The professorships of theology and law are suppressed; those of physic, surgery, and philosophy, only, are retained. How could a public establishment for teaching the roman catholic religion be continued in a country, the constitution of which excludes all ecclesiastical supremacy, and allows unlimited liberty of conscience? Indeed no religious sect whatever is exclusively protected or discouraged by the government: the cisalpine republic considers papists and protestants, greeks and jews, and all others, of whatever denomination, as her children, whom she wishes to unite in the peaceful bonds of fraternity. In the mean time the faculty of law requires a complete reform: a professor of criminal jurisprudence, and another of the rights of man and the cisalpine constitution, appear amply sufficient for the instruction of those who are destined to serve the republic in the forum; and these are included in the faculty of philosophy. The deliberative committees have resolved on an improvement of the university of Pavia, and the other higher schools of the republic, according to this plan. The executive directory has decreed, that the public lectures, during the scholastic year, which began in november 1797, and will end in june 1798, should be confined to physic, surgery, and philosophy.

The italian society of Verona will be transferred to Milan: the national institute of sciences of the cisalpine republic will be established at Bologna: and the medical and philosophical faculties alone will remain at Pavia.

ART. II. TEYLER'S THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, AT HARLEM.

The prize question proposed by this society, to be answered before the 1st of december next, is:

'Have we reason to institute such a parallel between the mosaic and christian religious doctrines and those of the heathen, after the manner of some modern works, that they may be equally deduced and explained from mere human meditation on the original matter and physical powers of the world, or from ancient narrations, astronomical observations, mythological traditions, and allegorical descriptions of the courses of the celestial bodies?'

In this question the society has more particularly in view Dupuis's *Origin of all Religions*, and Volney's *Ruins*, the leading notions of which it wishes to see thoroughly sifted. The prize is a gold medal, of the value of 400 holl. guilders [£. 35]. The answers are to be written in dutch, latin, french, or english, with a motto, and the writer's name in a sealed billet to which the same motto must be affixed, and addressed, postage free, *Aan het Fundatie Huis van Wyle*

Wylen den Heer Pieter Teyler van der Hulst, by het Sluysboord te Harlem.

ART. III. TEYLER'S SECOND SOCIETY, HARLEM.

The following question is proposed for the prize of 400 holland guilders [£. 35] for the present year.

‘What are the reasons why most nations have chosen the metals, particularly gold and silver, as the representatives of value, or wealth? What are the advantages of this medium of circulation so generally received; and what disadvantages attend it? And can nothing else be invented, capable of serving permanently in its stead, to the public benefit, and more general utility?’

No answer was sent in due time to the question proposed in 1796 respecting the constitution and form of government of the grecian republics, and their influence on the happiness and unhappiness of their citizens: but as an able investigation of it is of great importance in the present day, it is again proposed in the following form.

‘What influence has a republican constitution on the happiness or unhappiness of the citizens; and how far can this influence be illustrated and confirmed by examples from the histories of the ancient greek and roman republics?’

The answers to both must be written and addressed conformably to the directions of the preceding article, and before the first of april 1799.

THEOLOGY.

ART. IV. *Paris.* We learn from a german correspondent of the Jena Review, who is at Paris, that a pamphlet has lately been published there, entitled *Culte et Loix d'une Société d'Hommes sans Dieu*, ‘Worship and Laws of a Society of Men without a God.’ This, the german observes, is considered by the many as the work of a new sect, sprung up under the unlimited liberty of conscience now allowed; but he discovers in it, from beginning to end, the language, hieroglyphics, and principles of the jesuits.

ART. V. *Erlangen.* *Ueber die göttlichen Offenbarungen, &c.* On divine Revelations, and particularly those which were made to Jesus and his Apostles. By Dr. G. F. Seilen. 2 vols. 8vo. About 900 p. 1796.

This work is not only interesting as it shows how much the learned Dr. S., a friend of the ancient system of the lutheran church, is disposed to concede to the progress made of late years in philosophy, and the historical mode of explaining the Scripture; but as it exhibits the sober inquiries of such a man after truth, and his opinions respecting revealed religion, without the least bitterness or anger against those who differ from him, without imputing to them unworthy motives, or undervaluing their merits, and with a modest sense of his own fallibility. By those advocates of revelation, who do not take too high grounds, the work will be undoubtedly prized; and it may be of service to those whose principles are altogether different.

different, by calling their attention to points, which they may not have sufficiently investigated. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

ART. VI. Frankfort. S. T. *Sæmmering Tabula Sceleti Feminini, &c.* S. T. Sæmmering's Plate of a Female Skeleton, with a Description. Royal fol. 1797.

Mr. S. has here endeavoured to supply a want, that has been felt ever since the appearance of Albinus's masterly delineations of the bony structure of the male. For this purpose he has selected the finest skeleton in his collection, that of a woman of twenty, whose body was never diverted from it's natural shape by stays, whose foot was never deformed by a shoe, and whose corporal and mental qualities, when alive, were objects of admiration: and to render the drawing as graceful as possible, and display the superiour beauty of the female frame compared with the male, Mr. S. availed himself of the advice of several celebrated artists with respect to the position of the figure. *Jen. All. Lit. Zeit.*

ART. VII. Königsberg. C. S. *Anderesch Tractatus Anatomico-physiologica de Nervis b. C. aliquibus, &c.* C. S. Anderesch's Anatomico-physiological Dissertation on some Nerves of the human Body, published by Ern. Ph. Anderesch. Part I. 8vo. 178 pa. 2 plates. 1797.

In consequence of a lawsuit in which the bookseller was involved, only part of this valuable thesis was originally printed, and that mostly disposed of as waste paper. This fragment, however, was republished in Ludwig's *Opusc. neurolog.*, and Haller gave an explanation of the plates in the Gottingen Transactions. The present edition is complete, as it was revised by the author before his death. The subjects of this part, which is to be followed by another, are the ninth, tenth, and eleventh pairs of the head, the descending internal nerves of the neck, the intercostal nerve, and the right cardiac. The work abounds with original observations, and evinces the indefatigable anatomist. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

BOTANY.

ART. VIII. Paris. Mr. Desfontaines, the national professor of botany, is at length publishing his *Plants of Barbary*, with plates. The work will contain descriptions of fifty or sixty new species.

ASTRONOMY.

ART. IX. Paris. *Exposition du Système du Monde, &c.* An Exposition of the Mundane System, by P. S. Laplace, Member of the National Institute of France and the Board of Longitude. 2 vols. 8vo. 626 p. 4 [1796].

This valuable performance exhibits a concise view of every thing hitherto discovered respecting our system, tracing in a masterly manner the progress made by the human mind in the science of astronomy

astronomy from the simplest observations to the most profound. Mr. L. has avoided the employing of figures and mathematical formulæ, yet his work is not calculated for beginners, but only for those who have made at least some progress in the mathematics. A German translation of it, by prof. J. K. F. Hauff, is publishing.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

ART. X. *Paris.* A German named Dohl, a porcelain manufacturer in this city, has discovered an art of considerable importance to the potter and enameller. In painting porcelain he uses pigments unalterable by the fire; so that whatever is to be represented is painted at once in its proper colours, as on canvas, and comes out of the furnace without any change of hue.

HISTORY.

ART. XI. *Brunswic.* *Historisch genealogischer Kalender auf das Jahr 1798, &c.* The historical genealogical Calendar for 1798. Germany, a historical Sketch. 12mo. 384 p.

Near 300 pages of this pocketbook are occupied by 'a brief history of Germany, from 1556 to 1797, or from the reformation to the present day, when the effects of the critical philosophy [Kant's] begin to display themselves, and the consequences of the revolution brought about by Luther are more and more developed and extended:' a masterly essay, in which all the circumstances that have influenced the fate of Germany, and the cultivation of the minds of its inhabitants, are exhibited with great perspicuity, accompanied by philosophical reflections, and with strict impartiality.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

POETRY.

ART. XII. *Leipfic.* Mr. Falk, whose talents as a satirical poet we have already had occasion to notice [see our Rev. Vol. xxv, p. 447], appears to have found a favourable reception for his Pocketbook [*ib.*], as he has published another for 1798, in which he lashes those acute-nosed gentlemen, who can smell treason in a pair of pantaloons, and atheism in a piece of gilt gingerbread. He has republished, also, from the German Mercury, *Der Mensch und die Helden*, 'The Man, and the Heroes,' two satirical poems, the latter of which exhibits the horrors of conquest much after the manner of Mr. Fawcett's Art of War.

ERRATA in last Number.

Page 119, l. 9 from bottom, for ΕΛΘΩ read ΕΛΘΩΤ.

— 124, l. 10, ————— for κραταις, read κραται' 15,

For January.

P. 1, line 18, for 2l. 2s. read 21l.

FOR THE
ANALYTICAL REVIEW,
FOR MARCH, 1798.

A
RETROSPECT OF THE ACTIVE WORLD:

OR,

A GENERAL REVIEW OF DISCOVERIES, INVENTIONS,
AND PRACTICAL CONTROVERSIES, AND CONTESTS.

A REVIEW of the active world, for whatever period of time, naturally resolves itself into agriculture, mechanical arts, commerce, and practical, comprehending theological as well as political, controversies and contests: but as all these are constantly influenced by taste and fashion in the imitative arts, and opinion in matters of abstracted science, it is not foreign, but forms a part of our design, as explained in our introductory number, january, 1797, not only to glance occasionally at the prevailing taste in the fine arts, but to the most common pursuits, and the most general results of philosophical investigation. We have touched on this subject, in our retrospects for november and december, 1797. There appear, in fact, at present, to be three grand sects in the world:—materialists; those who believe in the existence of both matter and mind; and mere spiritualists. Although the number of the second, and, what we may call the mixed class, be greater by far than that of either the first or third, nay and of both put together; yet are they pressed with difficulties which the others avoid. While they attempt to grasp and explain the external world, by means of the conceptions and operations of their own mind, they endeavour to explain those very conceptions and operations by means of analogies drawn from the external world. As, on the one hand they analyse the powers and properties of matter by metaphysical abstractions; so, on the other, they are obliged to admit, that they have not any ideas or names, for the operations of the mind, besides those that are taken from objects of sense. They apply the same measure, the same ratio, to things supposed to be heterogeneous in every respect, except that of existence.

The materialist, who considers all things as sensible: as sensations, re-sensations, and pro-sensations, is still consistent; whether he be content to mark the order of succession among all these, or

attempt a solution of them, by means of animal spirits, subtle ether, nervous ducts, vibrations, or other analogies. The spiritualist too, who calls every thing ideal, is equally consistent. That in the conceptions and operations of the mind, supposed to be an indivisible and immaterial substance, there should exist any thing different from the mind itself, any thing of an extended and material nature, however subtle and refined, is certainly not very easy to be understood.

In which of all these three classes are we to rank the new school, mentioned with no more than just and modest praise, in our retrospect for november last * ? It does not, of necessity, belong to either: its only aim being to apply the baconian method of investigation, by induction, to the phenomena of what is called mind, as well as to those of what is called matter. But Dr. Reid, one of the principal supporters of this new philosophy of the human mind, maintains the existence of matter, as something different from any, or all of our perceptions: in which, we confess, the ingenious, learned, and good doctor does not convey to our mind any thing more distinct, by his term of suggestion, than Locke by his substratum, or preceding philosophers, by their occult qualities. This doctrine, however, of a supposed, unknown substratum, suggested by sensation, with as great certainty as perception and sensation themselves, does not seem to be maintained, or at least much insisted on, by all the disciples of the same school, who, for aught that appears, may be either materialists, or spiritualists; although it is to the latter class that we ought to refer them; if they do not indeed believe matter and mind to be substances of different natures †.

While the followers of Berkley contend for an exclusive spiritual world with, at least, great ingeniousness and plausibility, on the ground of metaphysical reasoning, it is shown by chemical analyses, that there is throughout all nature a constant progression from fluidity to solidity, and from solidity to fluidity; that the most solid substances are decomposable into different gases, and gases themselves capable of resolutions and combinations, that approximate them more and more to an energy that is purely spiritual and intellectual, and the spring of volition and all motion: so that it may be observed, as a matter highly curious in itself, as well as characteristical of the present speculative world, that though we can hardly suppose any concerted plan of operation to have been formed between metaphysicians and chemists, they yet, in fact, do tend to meet each other half way, for the purpose of kicking the material world out of existence.

The combination between metaphysicians and chemists is joined by different parties from different sects of theologians, particularly the hutchinsonians, who explain the position, that 'God

* Page 540.

† See Stewart's *Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind*. Page 4. paragraph first.

is all in all,' and other texts of sacred Scripture, into a perfect conformity with the

'Jupiter est quodcumque vides, quocumque moveris,'

of the poet; or, as is happily expressed in the sublime peroration or epilogue to the poem on the Seasons, 'the varied God.' We have as little inclination, as our readers would have patience, to enter into an examination of the radical hebrew words, on which chiefly, among other reasons, they found this doctrine. We may mention however, that by this, they get quit of the difficulties, of religious faith, attending the eternal existence of matter: for they conceive, with many others, that matter could not have been created by a spiritual being, though eternal. There are many theologians, of this spiritual class, in Germany and other parts of the Continent, and several in England. These speculations must necessarily suffer a great, and perhaps a long interruption, from the present inhuman war. It is not even certain, that the public mind will be in a tone to listen to inquiries so very abstracted, during the present generation. War is discouraging to the sciences in general, but most of all to those of the metaphysical and moral kind; which treat of the deity, a providence, and moral obligations. Justice may perhaps be done at last—

'But when and where? This world was made for Cæsar.'

All war, but especially such a war as the present, which unites all the arts of refinement with the most savage ferocity, disheartens, and mocks the labours of the humane philosopher, who aims to exalt the excellence of our nature, by exercising our powers and regulating our passions; and to make us happy by making us wise and good. When might so palpably prevails over right, and all things are determined by superiour force, men have but little heart to inquire into eternal truth and justice.

On the other hand, there are studies to which the horrors of war are not only less inimical, but even in some degree favourable: such as mechanics and chemistry; and other studies of course, with which these are connected. Field-pieces have been invented of great force, yet so light as to be carried on the backs of horses. The telegraph has been improved, if not invented, and applied to the purpose of communicating intelligence with the speed of lightning. An importance has been given to the invention of balloons, on sundry occasions, particularly by Pichegru, at Fleurus, where the enemy were posted in a woody country, and their position not to be found out by any other means of intelligence. Colonel Congreve, in the british service, has augmented the force, and discovered a method of making a considerable saving of gun-powder, in the charging of artillery. The chemical knowledge of the french saved them in the period of the revolution. Nitre failed them for the manufacture of gun-powder. At a time when their old stores were nearly exhausted, or were found useless from what they believed to be intentional injury, their chemists found a substitute in the superoxygenated muriat of pot ash, manufactured from sea-salt, which, used instead

stead of nitre, made a powder of greater strength and inflammability*. The genius of war, too, as well as that of commerce, prompts such attempts as that of sailing without, or even against the wind, by means of steam. It may be added, that human invention, sharpened by the exigencies of war, practises with felicity on the passions of men. Pichegru, knowing how ardent the french are in an onset, and how apt to despond when reduced to the necessity of defence; in the formation of his plans, availed himself of the national character of his countrymen. He reckoned on the defeat of one party, but had another, and another, to assail the weary victors.

But though there be some arts to which war may give a temporary stimulus, it may yet be affirmed, that it tends to deaden and destroy the general spirit of all liberal and ingenious improvement: the evil spirit of war is like the savage indian, who, in order to pluck the fruit, cuts down the tree.

We proceed, according to our plan, from agriculture, to the

ARTS.

It was, undoubtedly, a great oversight that we did not, in this retrospect of inventions and discoveries, sooner take notice of one of the happiest applications of science to one of the most humane and most useful purposes that ever was made. It is to the new method of

SHOELING HORSES to which we allude; an improvement for which we are indebted to that generous and munificent institution, the Veterinary College. It had been universally the custom, as it still too generally is, in the shoeing of horses, to pair the frog very much, and raise it from the ground by a thick heeled shoe. This practice is most pernicious, as it prevents and destroys the natural function of the frog; the shape and convexity of which clearly demonstrate, that it was to come in contact with the ground, and to contribute it's aid towards the support of the animal. Experience proves, what might have been foreseen, the distortion and disease arising from so violent a counteraction of the economy of nature. Mr. Coleman, professor in the veterinary college, has found a certain and never failing mode of preventing and remedying these evils, by applying a shoe thin at the heel, bringing the frog into contact with the ground, and exposing it to pressure, for which it was formed and destined. Thus the foot of the horse is kept, or restored to health; and thus also, from that oblong or gibbous shape into which it is squeezed by the common practice of smiths and farriers, ignorant of anatomy and physiology, to the round form of nature, equally adapted to

* This last quality gave rise to frequent explosions: on which account, having found out an expeditious mode of procuring nitre from putrescent animal substances, (also a discovery of their chemists) they have returned to the use of this article.

strength and beauty. Eighty pupils sent from the veterinary college into the regiments of cavalry and different towns in England, diffuse with great success the knowledge, and recommend the practice of this happy improvement. It is to be noticed, to the praise of his majesty, the constant patron of useful knowledge, that the veterinary pupils are received into the rank and pay of officers; which, and eight shillings a day in their capacity of surgeons, makes a very genteel livelihood; so that the veterinary college is a blessing to men as well as horses, as it opens a new channel of provision to young men of ingenious minds, and genteel but not affluent condition. From this capital improvement in the management of the horse's foot, a hint may be taken by many persons of both sexes, who place their chief good in following the caprices of fashion, to spare themselves the pain of corns. It might have been proper to have given a more particular account of the doctrine and practice of the veterinary college in this important point, if we did not know, that an anatomical and practical treatise, by professor Coleman, on the horse's foot, is now in a train for publication.

A method has been contrived by Mr. Robert Beatson for preventing

WHEEL CARRIAGES, from making ruts in roads:—A small broad wheel or roller is placed between the other wheels, being fixed directly under the axle-tree, and so strongly secured thereto as to be able to support the whole weight of the carriage when necessary, which will always be the case when the wheels come to any deep ruts formed by other carriages. This contrivance we have perceived has been adopted in the construction of large waggons that come to London from several towns in the country.

Mr. Robert Miller, callico-printer, at Milton-Printfield, in the county of Dumbarton, Scotland, has found out a mode of weaving all kinds of linen, cotton, and worsted cloths, by means of looms wrought by water, and which may be wrought by steam engines, horses, or any other power; weaving being done at much less expense, and much more expeditiously, than it is done at present by weavers; and the cloth, so weaved, being of a more regular texture, and superiour to what can be wrought by the hand. These are amongst the most important improvements lately made in the practical arts, that fall under the mechanical class. In our next number we shall select what we judge to be the most important in the chemical.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

In our monthly retrospect of the active world, we are more disposed to examine the course of affairs by the great principles that put them in motion, than to ascribe importance to particular events: though the public mind, composed of the mass of common opinion, and retaining the grand characteristics of our nature, be prone to form high expectations from every striking concurrence, impatient, credulous, and ardent. In reviewing the political scene, general and combined causes are excluded from vulgar calculation. The grand revolution that now convulses the
world

world is considered as springing immediately from one event: and the results of the war as dependent on some particular accident. All things are seen through the medium of isolated passions and situations. If particular measures, it is said, had been adopted, and certain distinguished characters placed in office, all things might yet have been well; or, if disastrous, restored to prosperity. The extraordinary events of the present month are indeed momentous, but they will be found hereafter to be mere circumstances, accompanying the great current that has long been spreading its tide over the face of the civilized world.

In military and feudal times, if tribes and nations were in some instances divided against each other by wars of rapacity and resentment, they were in others strongly united by common dangers, and common prejudices and predilections. A period succeeded when the world was governed by the sympathies and antipathies of religion; after this came treaties and wars respecting the political balance of Europe, and the freedom of the sea and of commerce. In all these different states of society, there was nothing solitary, supine, and wholly selfish. The nations were alive and alert; nothing of material consequence, that happened to one, was regarded as an object of indifference to the rest. A vigilant, manly spirit pervaded the whole.

With a superficial and licentious philosophy, there has been introduced into Italy, France, and other parts of Europe, a spirit of selfishness and sensuality, that considers the tenderest and noblest interests of the heart as weakness, pities the toilsome pursuits of glory, and places the chief good in the means and opportunities of animal gratification*. The refined and fashionable world has become a listless and improvident debauchee, that cares for nothing but present ease and enjoyment. The princes of Europe seem to take the tone from this old rake. Every one shuts his eyes, and wraps himself up in his own narrow cloak. The sluggard puts his hand into his bosom, and is loth to take it out. In these circumstances, the new government of

FRANCE

plunders the people, and makes the people plunder their neighbours: thus converting the very inquietude of the french character, apparently so formidable, into the means of supporting their tyranny. The general attack carried on by the french on private property, public credit, and the rights of nations; and the same spirit in which that attack is made, communicated to the many-headed monsters in other nations, is the grand source of the evils which at present deluge the face of Europe. It is, however, some consolation to find not only some parts of Europe, but

* We could name more than one nobleman in this country, some of the first rank, and others in offices about court, who make it their boast, that if they were to live their lives over again, they should not know how they could procure a greater number of pleasing sensations than what they had actually taken care to enjoy.

the provinces of America, beginning to comprehend the system, which we have uniformly inculcated, of the united interests and rights of nations, and the necessity of establishing these on a common basis. The cantons of Switzerland have held forth an example to the nations of Europe of the spirit and principles on which they ought to exclude the despotism of all foreign interference*. This example, though hitherto unsuccessful, ought nevertheless to be admired and imitated by confederated nations; around whose standard the swiss would yet rally: for the tree of liberty is not to be eradicated from mountains so bold, inaccessible, and sublime. The natural elements are a hedge around it: the winds of heaven have charge of it's seed. The rights of nations will be maintained with greater success, though not with greater glory, on the other side of the Atlantic. Nothing can possibly illustrate the organization of the political order of civilization more clearly than the events that have lately taken place in that quarter of the world. America, from which the revolution recoiled on France, checks it's returning tide; and the ministers of Great-Britain find in the reasoning of Mr. Harpur, a strong justification of persevering in the present war in defence of property and the rights of nations. The prudence and firmness of general Washington have counteracted the violence of a revolutionary spirit, instigated by the agents of France in 1794 and 1795: and a member of the congress of America has taught the government of the people of England to read their own security in the just defence he makes of his country.

The co incident manœuvres of the directory to overthrow the ancient constitution of Switzerland; to dictate to the german empire at Rastadt; and march their conquering legions across the Appenine and Pyrenean mountains, have completely unfolded the designs of the french. These, with regard to the rest of their neighbours, appear to be only subsidiary to their great plan of hostility against the british empire. On every side, they collect the resources necessary to their grand attack on this country. There they plunder; here they mean to conquer. There she plunders, but here she means to conquer.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

WHILE the armies of France, which have already crossed the Alps and Appenines, threaten also to pass the Pyrenees, Spain seems resigned to it's fate. Portugal and Hamburgh menaced, but not yet attacked, form the western and the eastern boundaries of the anglo-gallican contest in Europe.

ITALY.

The tricoloured flag is displayed from the immobile saxum Capitolii of Rome. The pope has been permitted to retire to Avignon.

* In a little work written in october, 1792, what has happened in Switzerland was predicted. We again refer our readers to that publication, 'Correspondence between a Traveller, &c.' and especially to those who have read with approbation Mr. Harpur's pamphlet.

Not a few of even the cardinals have joined the revolution. The government of Rome, and it's dependent states and territories, is about to pass from a theocracy to a democracy; from religious faith, or according to some, superstition, into the hands of the fanaticism of democracy. This, amidst many events that seem at present to be more important, is that which will, beyond all doubt, in the page of history, be distinguished as the most conspicuous and interesting in the present age and century. The successful intrigues of statesmen and princes, the marches and the victories of powerful armies, touch the present race, who naturally look to what most immediately affects them, with the liveliest concern. But the fall of the roman pontificate, that governed, and, we must allow, contributed most eminently to civilize the world for more than a thousand years, will arrest the attention of posterity, and appear as the most prominent figure, when many things that bulk so much in our apprehension shall be thrown into the back ground, and appear only as indistinct clouds and small specks on the canvass. The philosophical observer will doubtless, on occasion of such an event, pause amidst the present objects that hurry his spirits and solicit his attention, and reflect on the hierarchy of Rome. Of the governments that have shared, and still share the world, a very great proportion, perhaps the greater part, are in their constitution, or at least in their nature, theocratical. The government of Peru was theocratical; the government of the best part of Tataria is theocratical; so, in some sort, is that of China and of Turkey. But principles and professions, pure in themselves, are mingled, and in imagination receive a tincture from human weakness. The principles of the roman catholic church were and are good: the ambition, and other selfish passions of the ecclesiastics, brought them into a degree of disrepute. But still the world has reason, and will, we fear, have for some time farther reason to deplore the fall of that venerable fabric*. The church abused the ignorance and credulity of men: but restrained the ferocity of barbarism, instructed them in what she supposed to be the means of eternal salvation, and consoled them under temporary afflictions. When a few free men in every nation of Europe held the mass of the people in bondage, the church interfered, and opened a way for the gradual abolition of slavery. Though cautious and jealous of science, (much of which time has proved to have been falsely so called,) she was the patron of literature and the arts. The missionaries she sent into all parts of the world for the propagation of christianity, and the interpreters of every tongue and nation, which she entertained in Rome, increased the common stock of knowledge. Thus Rome, uniting the modern nations by such an intercourse, and leading the imagination, by easy transitions, from ancient to present times, was justly considered as the grand centre of the world. Nor was science, though regarded with caution, barbarously and sternly

* We here assume, that the inquisition in Spain, and the regard paid to the catholic faith in the austrian dominions, will not long survive the ruin of the papal authority.

excluded! No! knowledge was gradually admitted, even to an interpretation (among the learned) of the Scripture, and ultimately prevailed. Nor was the reformation of religious doctrines and moral practice a thing wholly extraneous to the catholic faith. The seeds of these were enveloped; they germinated in the bosom of the universal church. To what seminary are we indebted for Zuinglius, Beza, Erasmus, Jerome of Prague, Wickliff, Luther, Calvin, father Paul, Giannone, &c.? To the seminary of the church of Rome.

We protestants are apt to talk with great modesty, of the dragon, the whore of Babylon, the beast of the Revelations; and apply these images to the church of Rome! meaning by all these, a brutal, physical, and tyrannical power, equally triumphant over the sentiments of humanity, and the conclusions of reason. This power is subverted: but by what? By a power equally at least inhuman, equally unreasonable: For, surely, there was never a more poisonous serpent, impudent a whore, nor savage a beast, than the present rulers of France!

From the peninsula of Italy, let us pass over to Greece, part of

TURKEY IN EUROPE,

so renowned in ancient, is not unlikely to be the theatre of as important actions in modern history. Passow an Oglou, at the head of an army, above a hundred thousand strong, continues to advance to the Sublime Porte, and is, perhaps, by this time, in possession of Adrianople. He arouzes the greeks to revolt, by a recollection of their former freedom and glory, and their present slavery and humiliation. This may produce an insurrection: and, perhaps, some revolution. But will it tend to establish a free constitution? Have the greeks any idea, more than the russians, to whom emancipation from slavery and villanage was offered by Catherine II in vain, any idea of liberty, other than that it is the contrary of bondage, and subjection to particular masters? It is impossible to emancipate the bodies of men, without first emancipating their minds. The barbarous nations of the south and west of Europe could not have been made partakers of the freedom, which they now, though in unequal degrees, enjoy, if they had not been prepared for it, by the christian religion, the civil law, and other remains of roman institutions.

GERMANY.

We have already touched on Switzerland, but we cannot pass by so interesting an object, without farther notice. The inroads into this country by the french are the natural consequences of the indifference of Europe to the subjugation of Corsica, and the partition of Poland.

The swiss have made a glorious, and indeed, an affecting stand. Perhaps they may yet find an opportunity of regaining their political independence. They have, for their consolation and their hope, their strong and animating country, their simple manners, their science, and the sympathy and vows of all good and wise men: sorry we are, that we cannot, with much propriety say, princes, statesmen, and nations! They may say to their co-estates, as the Saviour of the world to the sympathizing women of Judea—
daugh-

‘daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but for yourselves, and the calamities that are coming upon you!’ While we deplore the effects, we cannot but confess our astonishment at the cause by which they have been produced. Art and valour on the side of France have overcome nature and courage on the side of Switzerland. The french, arrogant by nature, and elated by success, and a victory over mountains, will doubtless be incited to brave the dangers of the ocean. The deputies of the empire have agreed to cede the territories on the left bank of the Rhine. Particular arrangements for the interior settlement of Germany have not yet transpired.

THE NORTHERN POWERS

Appear to be as dormant, as if their southern neighbours had gone to sleep, and left them to their winter repose. The influence of the pacific Bernstoff appears to reign still, after his death, in Denmark. Sweden is still courted by France. And these two still rival nations of the north leave Russia to the undisturbed government of her ponderous, and most extensive empire. The new czar is occupied with interior details; and probably sees, that the spirit which Buonaparte has kindled in the south of turkish Europe will do more towards the opening of Constantinople to his fleets and armies, than all the battles and victories of the great Catherine.

It would be a curious event, and it is not altogether improbable, to see, after the fall of Constantinople, the prince of Condé-embark, in the Euxine, with a russian fleet, and land at Toulon, to erect the throne, and the flower de lis of France.

GREAT-BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE objects that chiefly occupy our attention at home are, the continued preparations of France, for invading these islands, and the discovery of internal plots in Ireland, and even in London. We observe, with great satisfaction, that the menaces of the enemy, and their violent proceedings in other countries, have raised a spirit in our country, that supersedes the usual contentions of our parties. Motions, it is true, are made in the upper house of parliament, impeaching the conduct of ministers, and proposing an address to the throne, for their removal; but the great leader of opposition in the other house appears to have withdrawn from the activity of the political scene. He has probably considered, that the moment for opposition is past; and that the proclamations of the enemy, relative to invasion, and interference in our parliamentary reform, preclude him from obstructing, where he could not strengthen the hands of the present administration. We sincerely hope, that a statesman of his talents, and known attachment to the vital interests of his country, will not content himself with a negative line of conduct, in a crisis like the present; but, disentangling himself from certain characters that hang about him, offer his services for the good of his country. The times demand a statesman, who is not merely a legal pleader and rhetorician, however profoundly skilled in finance, and dextrous in intrigue: but a man of extensive knowledge, sublime views, and fertile in expedients: one who possesses a ready power of calling up before his imagination mere possibilities, of comparing them with realities, and with one another, and of deciding on their respective merits.